



US009473117B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Kim et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,473,117 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Oct. 18, 2016**

(54) **MULTI-BIT FLIP-FLOPS AND SCAN CHAIN CIRCUITS**

(71) Applicants: **Min-Su Kim**, Hwaseong-si (KR);
Matthew Berzins, Hwasung (KR);
Jong-Woo Kim, Osan-si (KR)

(72) Inventors: **Min-Su Kim**, Hwaseong-si (KR);
Matthew Berzins, Hwasung (KR);
Jong-Woo Kim, Osan-si (KR)

(73) Assignee: **Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.**,
Gyeonggi-do (KR)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 22 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/622,531**

(22) Filed: **Feb. 13, 2015**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2016/0241219 A1 Aug. 18, 2016

(51) **Int. Cl.**
H03K 3/00 (2006.01)
H03K 3/037 (2006.01)
H03K 19/21 (2006.01)
G01R 31/3177 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **H03K 3/0372** (2013.01); **G01R 31/3177**
(2013.01); **H03K 19/21** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC 327/115, 116, 117, 118, 161, 185,
327/198–203, 208–218, 355–360; 377/47,
377/48
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS
5,982,674 A * 11/1999 Lines G11C 7/1051
365/189.02
6,242,957 B1 6/2001 Uemura
6,304,123 B1 10/2001 Bosshart
6,492,855 B1 12/2002 Pasqualini

6,714,060 B2	3/2004	Araki	
7,391,250 B1 *	6/2008	Chuang	H03K 3/0375 326/104
7,443,218 B2 *	10/2008	Onouchi	H03K 3/012 327/199
7,590,900 B2 *	9/2009	Kim	G01R 31/318541 365/201
7,746,138 B2	6/2010	Sekine et al.	
8,471,597 B2	6/2013	Wang et al.	
8,908,449 B1 *	12/2014	Ramaraju	G11C 11/419 365/154
2003/0160289 A1 *	8/2003	Song	G11C 7/1072 257/390
2007/0280012 A1 *	12/2007	Obayashi	G11C 17/165 365/200
2008/0218235 A1 *	9/2008	Sekine	H03K 3/35625 327/212
2008/0297219 A1 *	12/2008	Manohar	H03K 3/011 327/202
2014/0070861 A1	3/2014	Fujita	
2015/0236676 A1 *	8/2015	Cai	H03K 3/356 327/212
2016/0097811 A1 *	4/2016	Kim	H03K 3/35625 714/726

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

JP	1999330917 A	11/1999
JP	2001127595 A	5/2001
JP	3651659 B2	5/2005
JP	2008054275 A	3/2008

* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner — Brandon S Cole

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Harness, Dickey &
Pierce, P.L.C.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A multi-bit flip-flop includes a plurality of multi-bit flip-flop blocks that share a clock signal. Each of the multi-bit flip-flop blocks includes a single inverter and a plurality of flip-flops. The single inverter generates an inverted clock signal by inverting the clock signal. Each of the flip-flops includes a master latch part and a slave latch part and operates the master latch part and the slave latch part based on the clock signal and the inverted clock signal. Here, the flip-flops are triggered at rising edges of the clock signal. Thus, the multi-bit flip-flop operating as a master-slave flip-flop may minimize (or, reduce) power consumption occurring in a clock path through which the clock signal is transmitted.

20 Claims, 18 Drawing Sheets

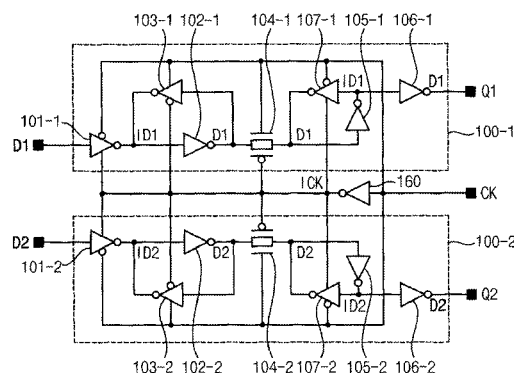


FIG. 1

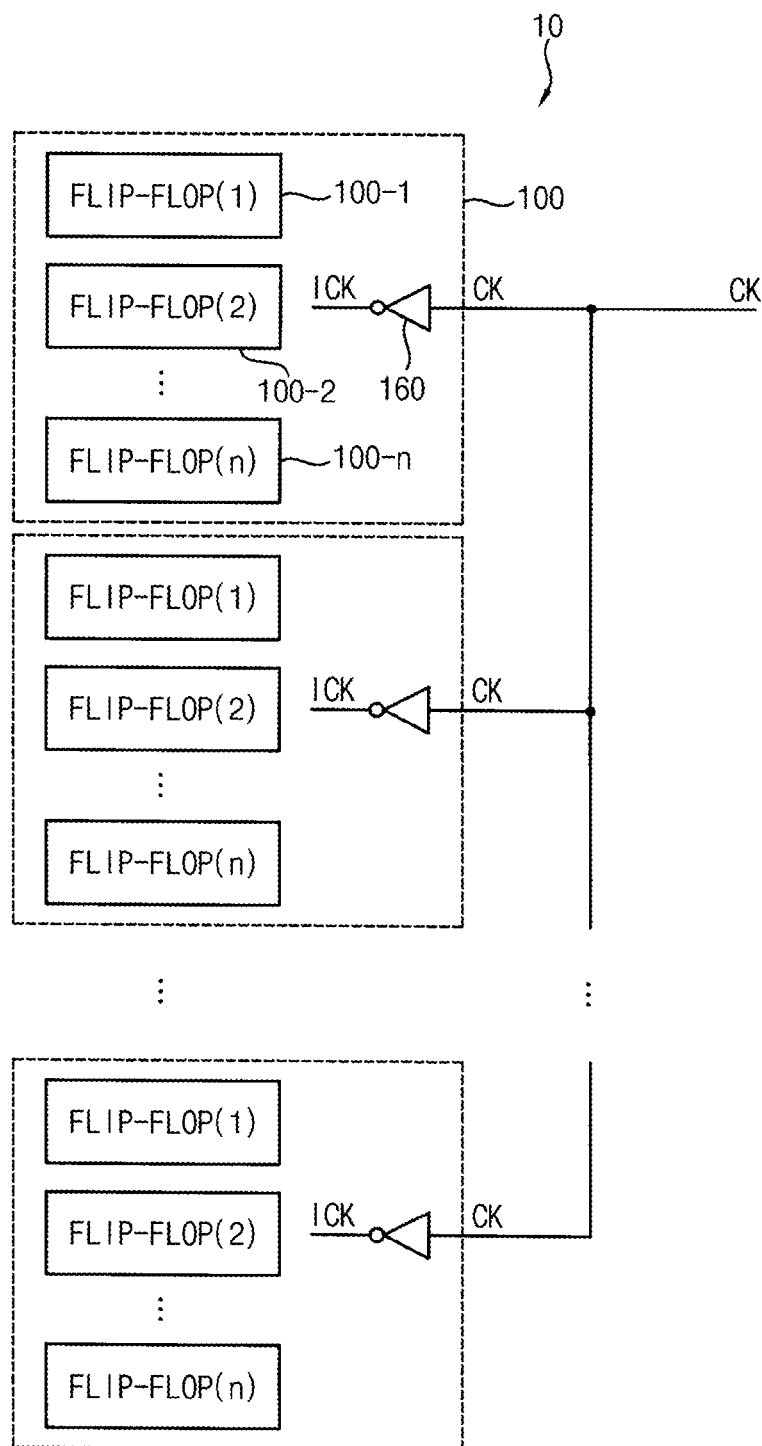


FIG. 2

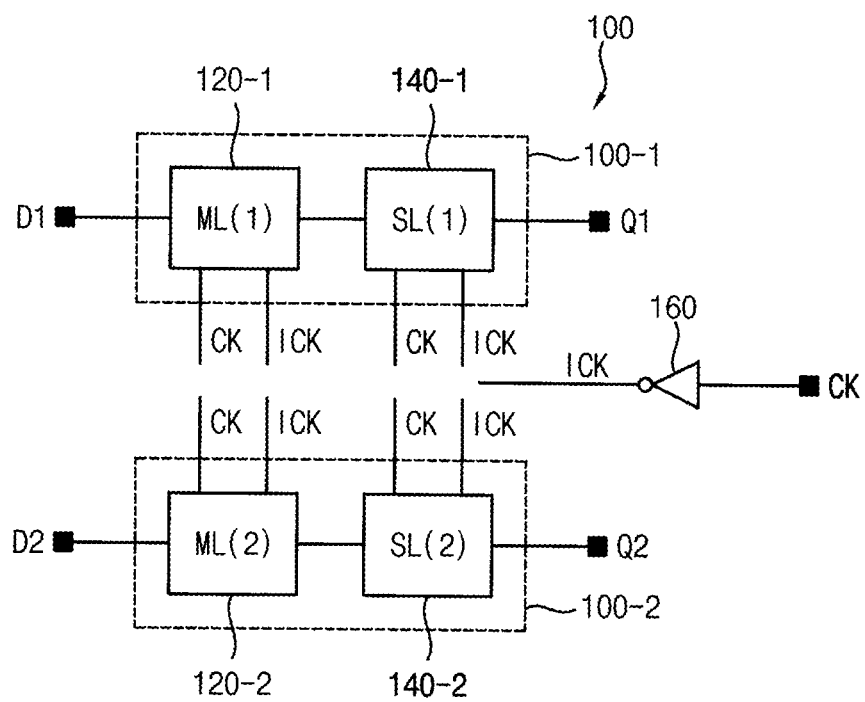


FIG. 3

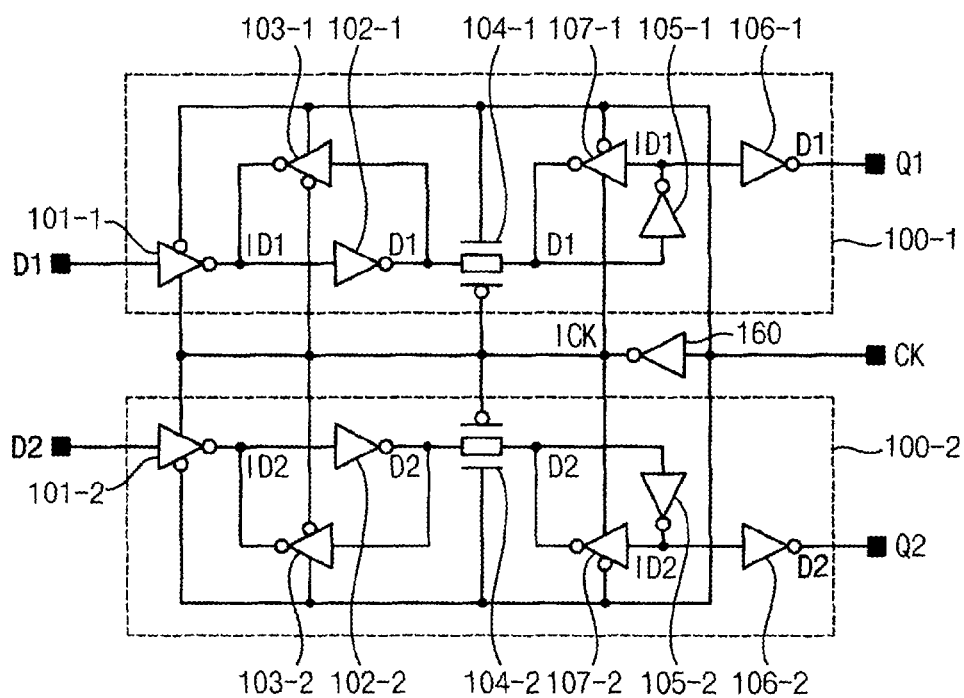


FIG. 4

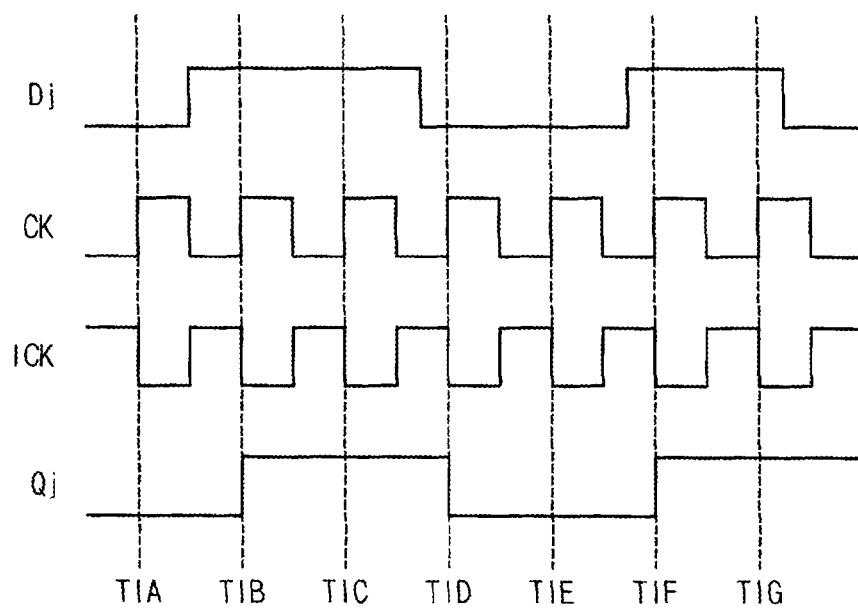


FIG. 5A

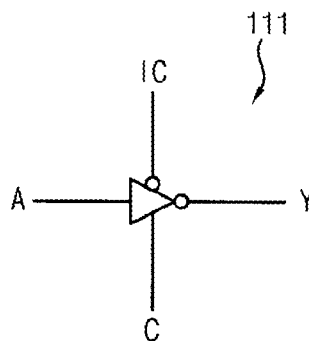


FIG. 5B

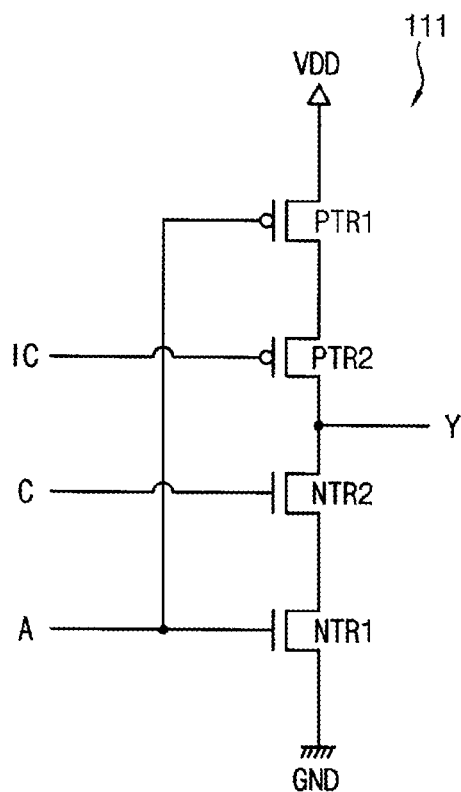


FIG. 6A

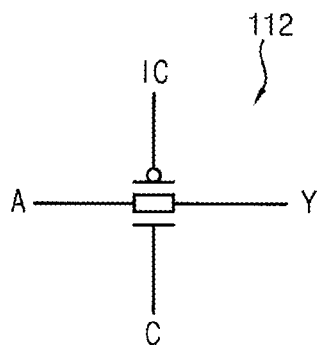


FIG. 6B

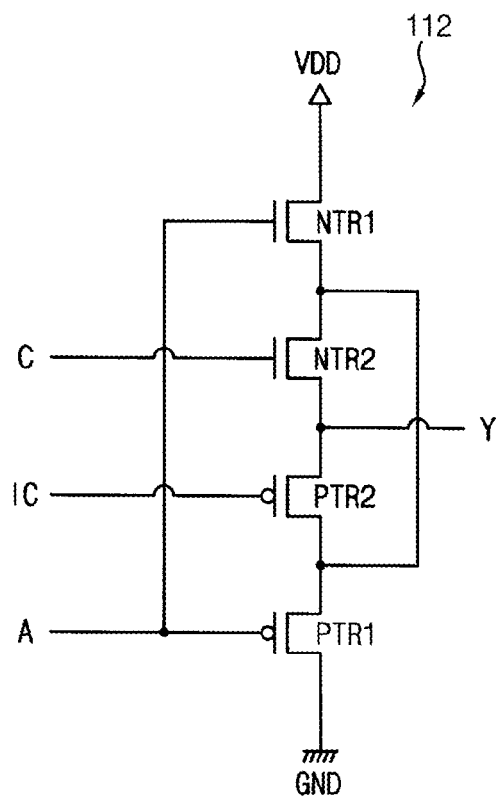


FIG. 7

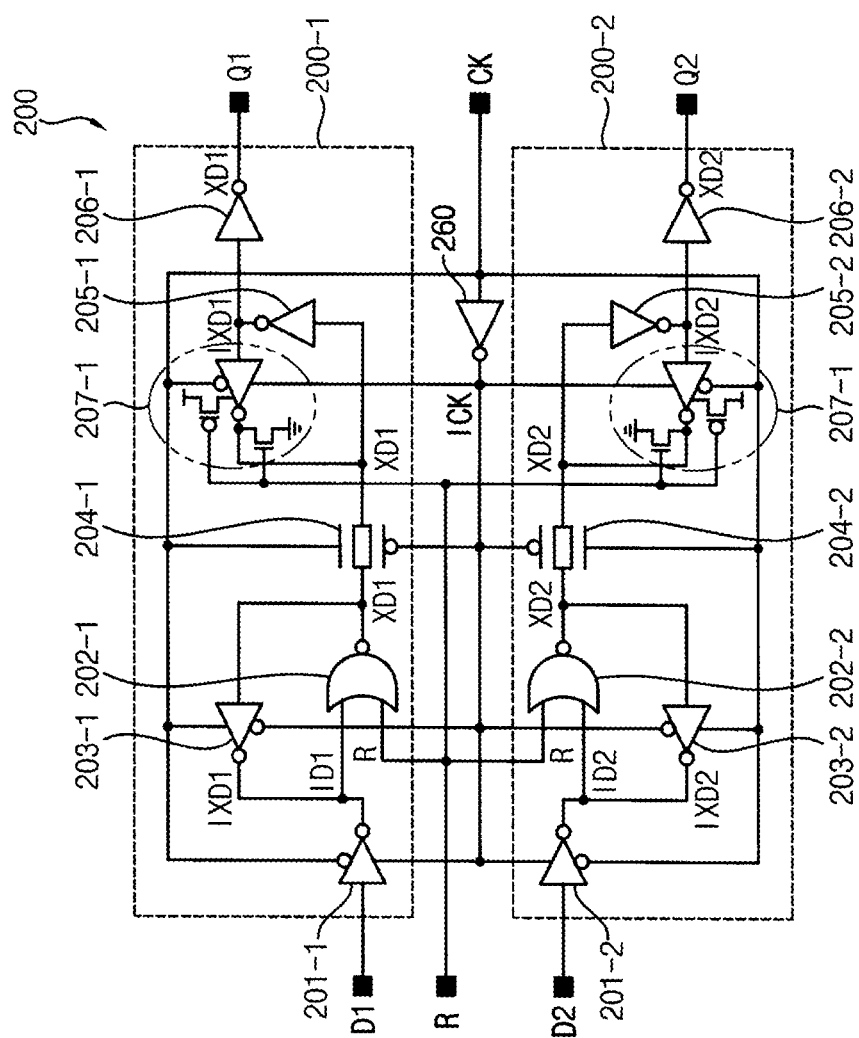


FIG. 8A

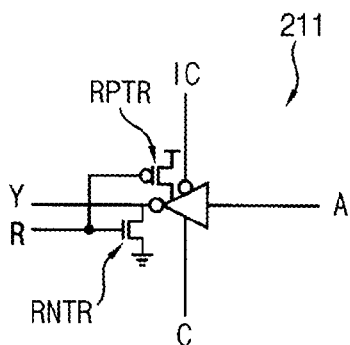


FIG. 8B

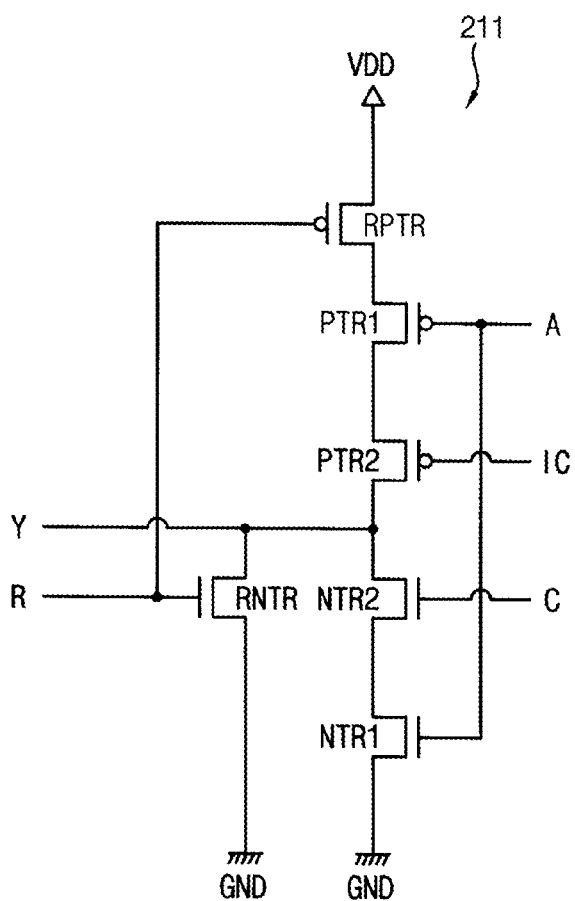


FIG. 9

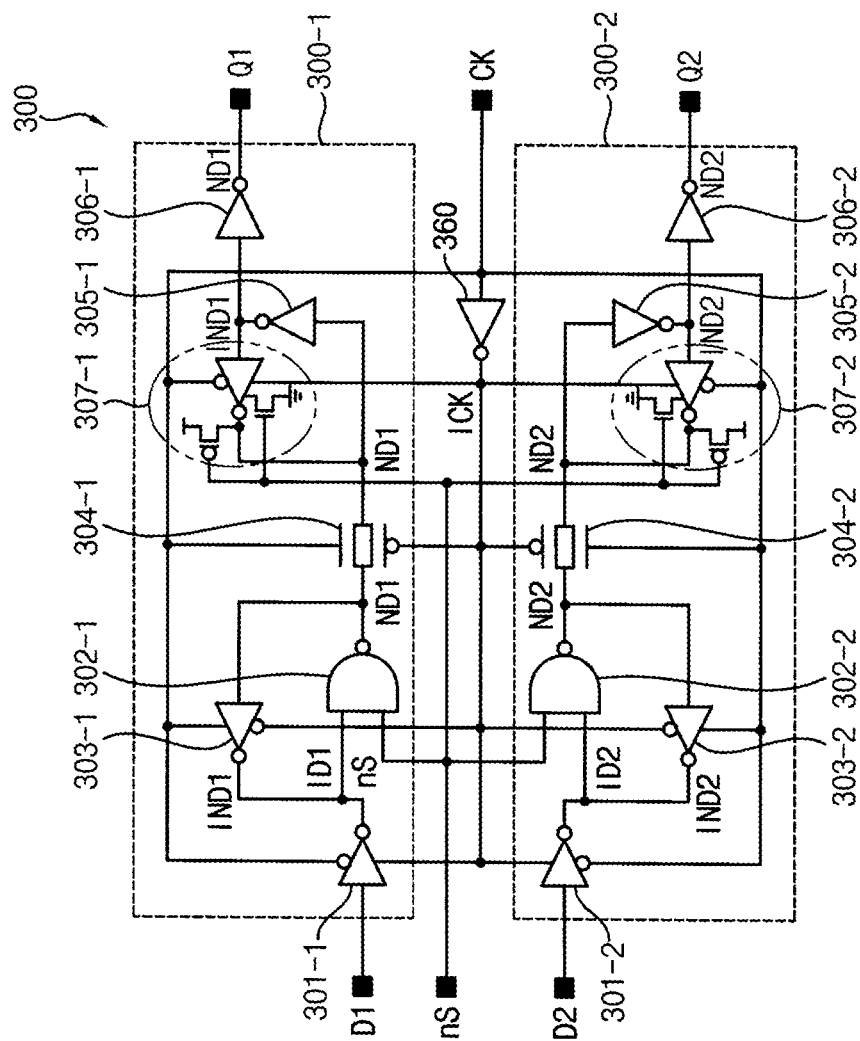


FIG. 10A

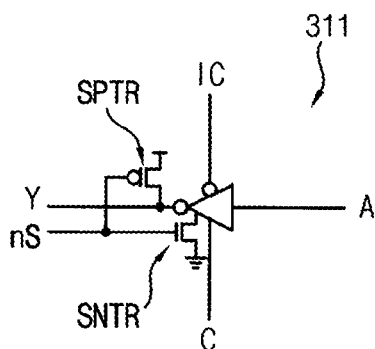


FIG. 10B

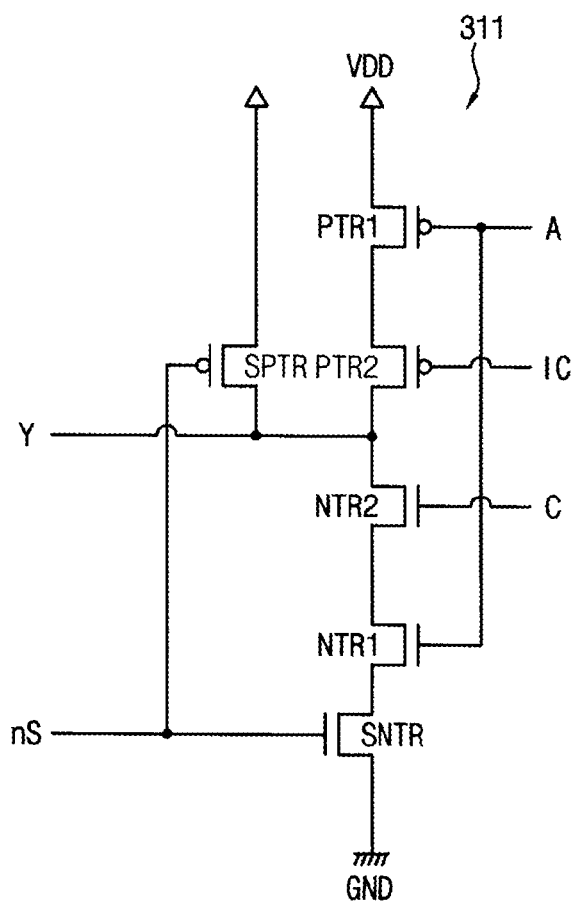


FIG. 11

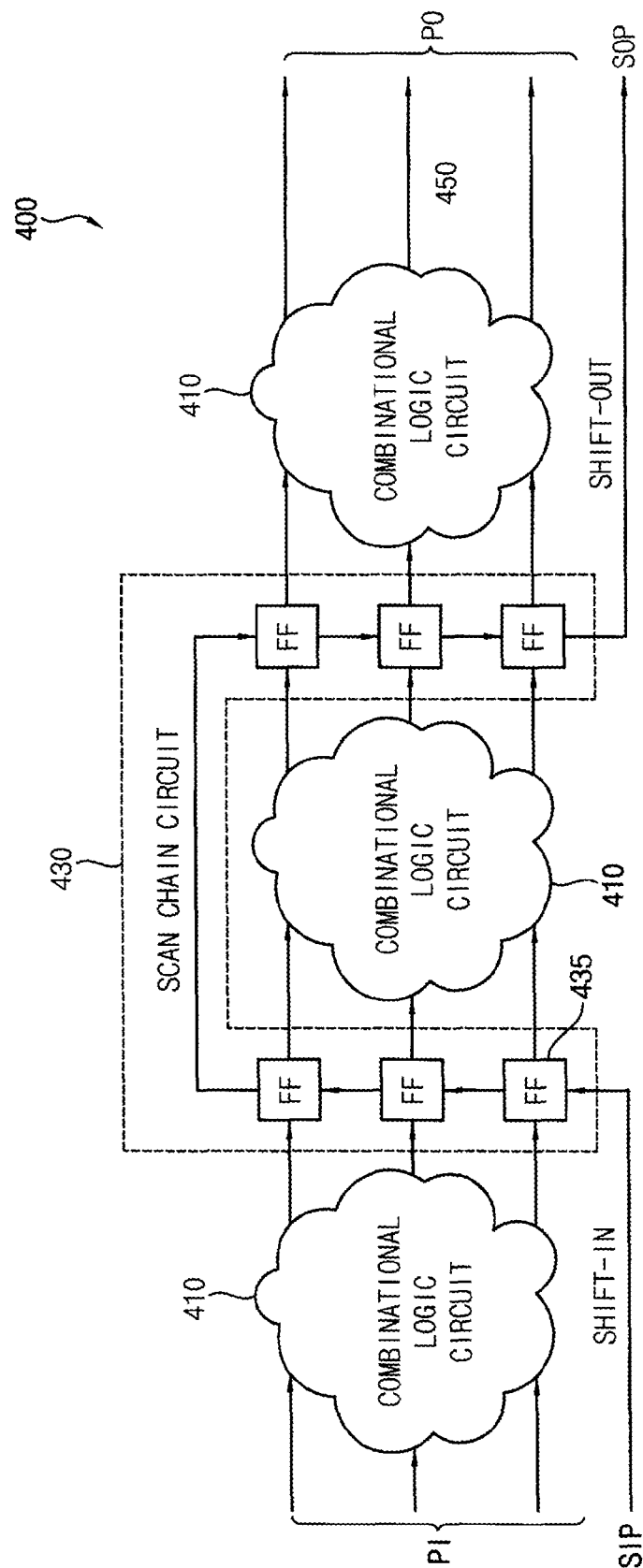


FIG. 12

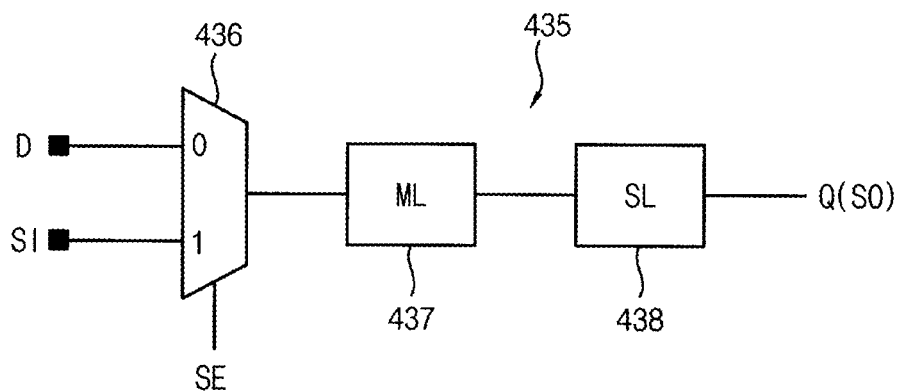


FIG. 13

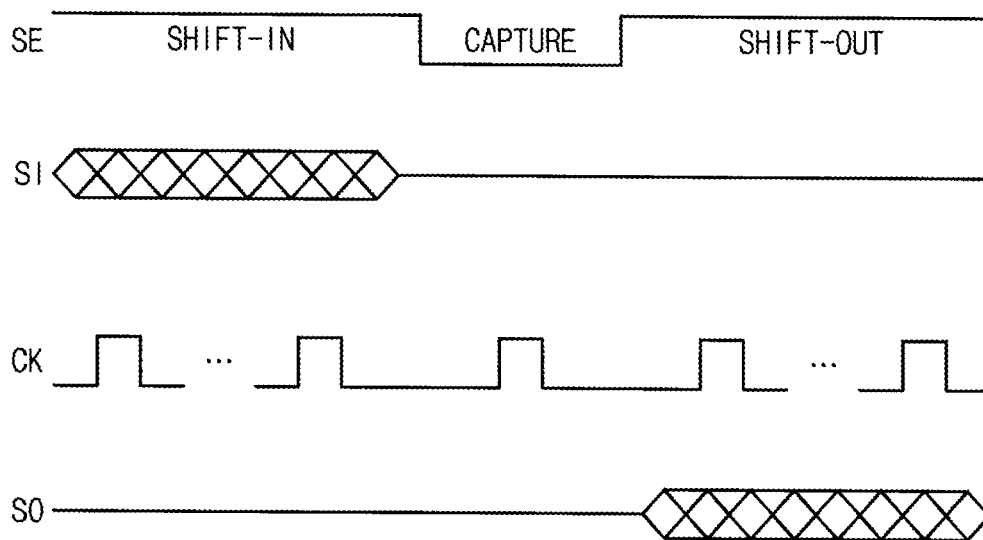


FIG. 14

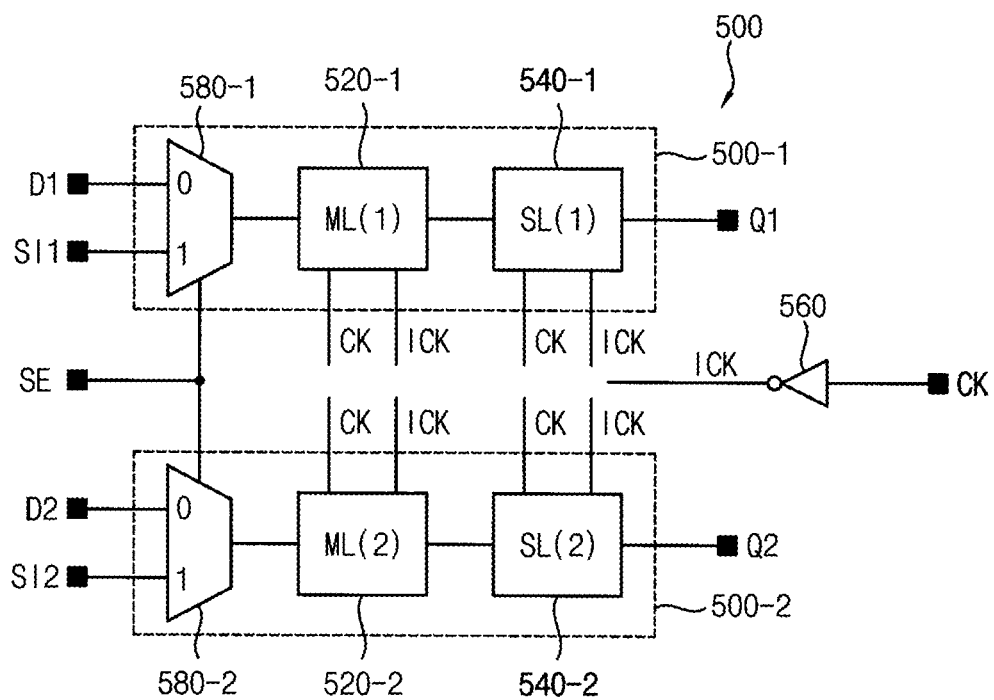


FIG. 15

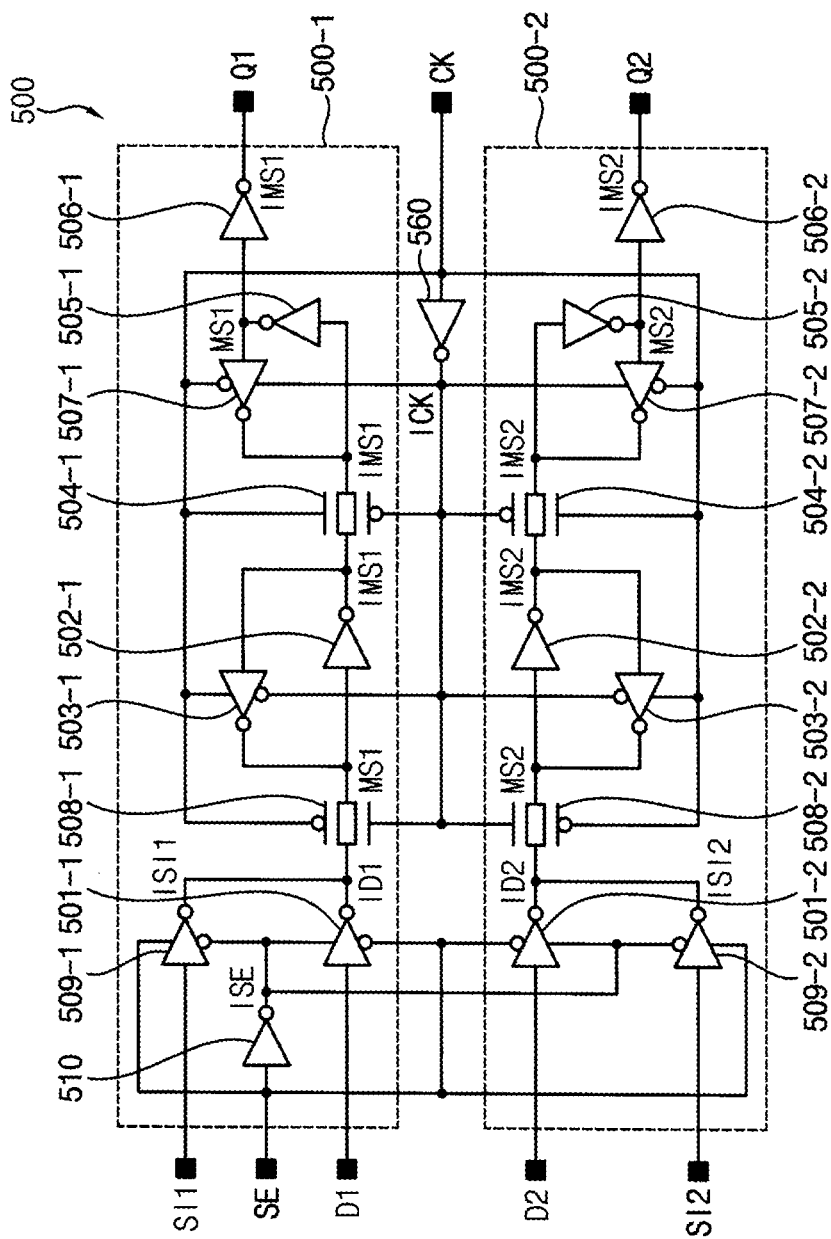


FIG. 16

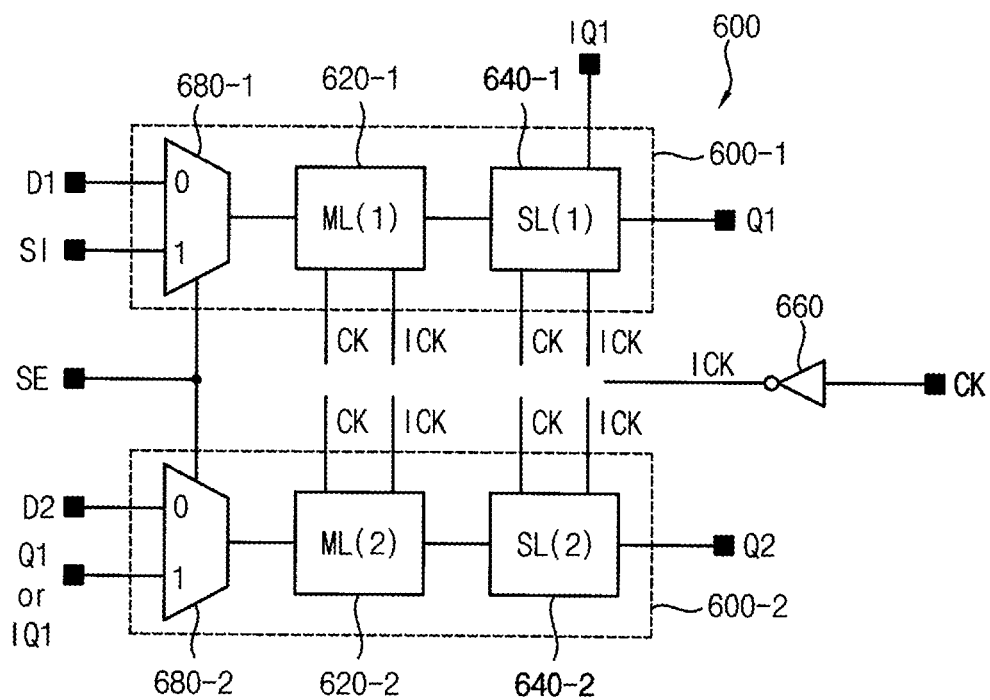


FIG. 17

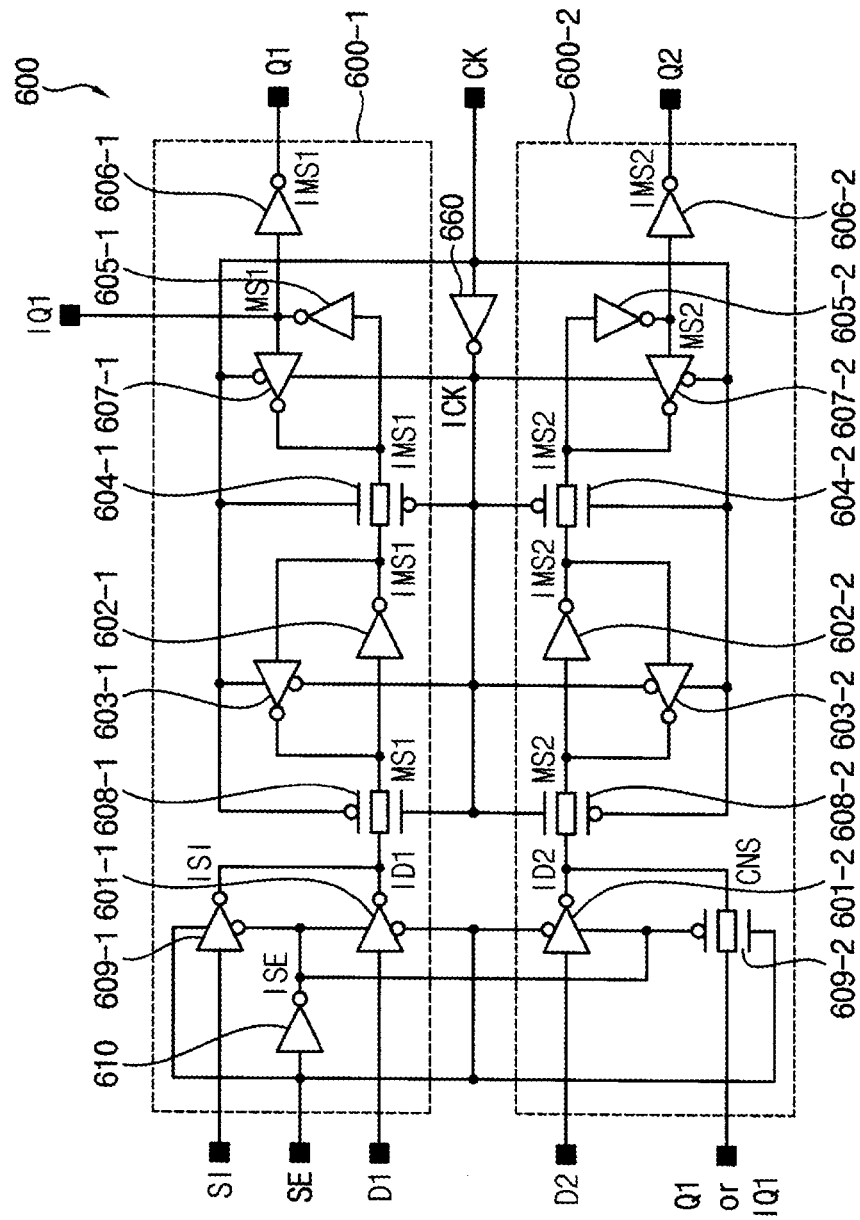


FIG. 18

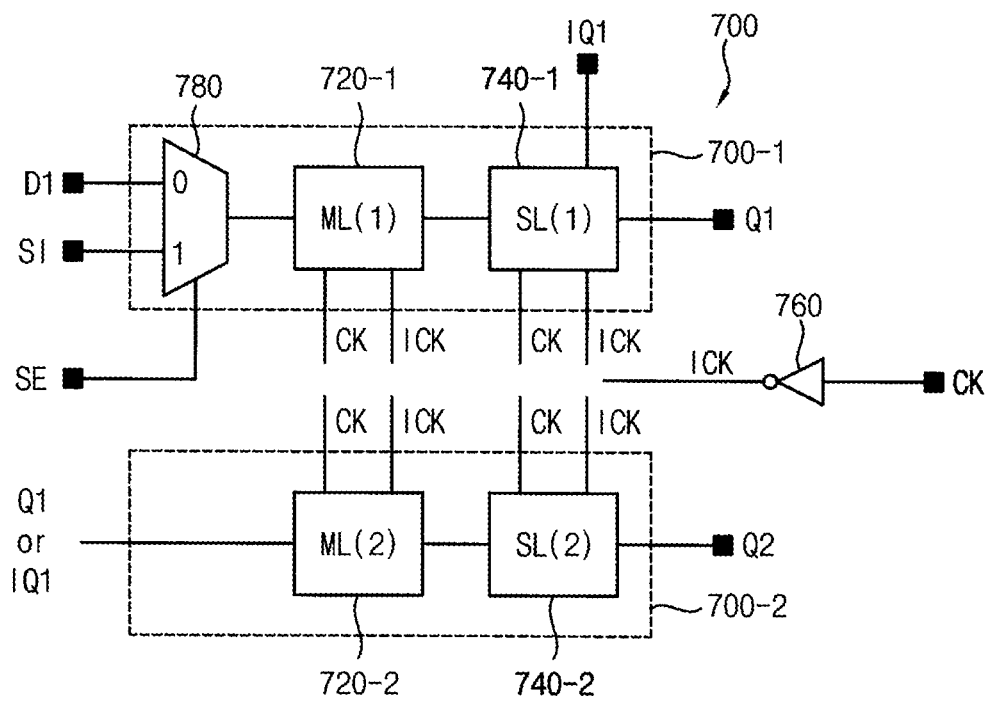


FIG. 19

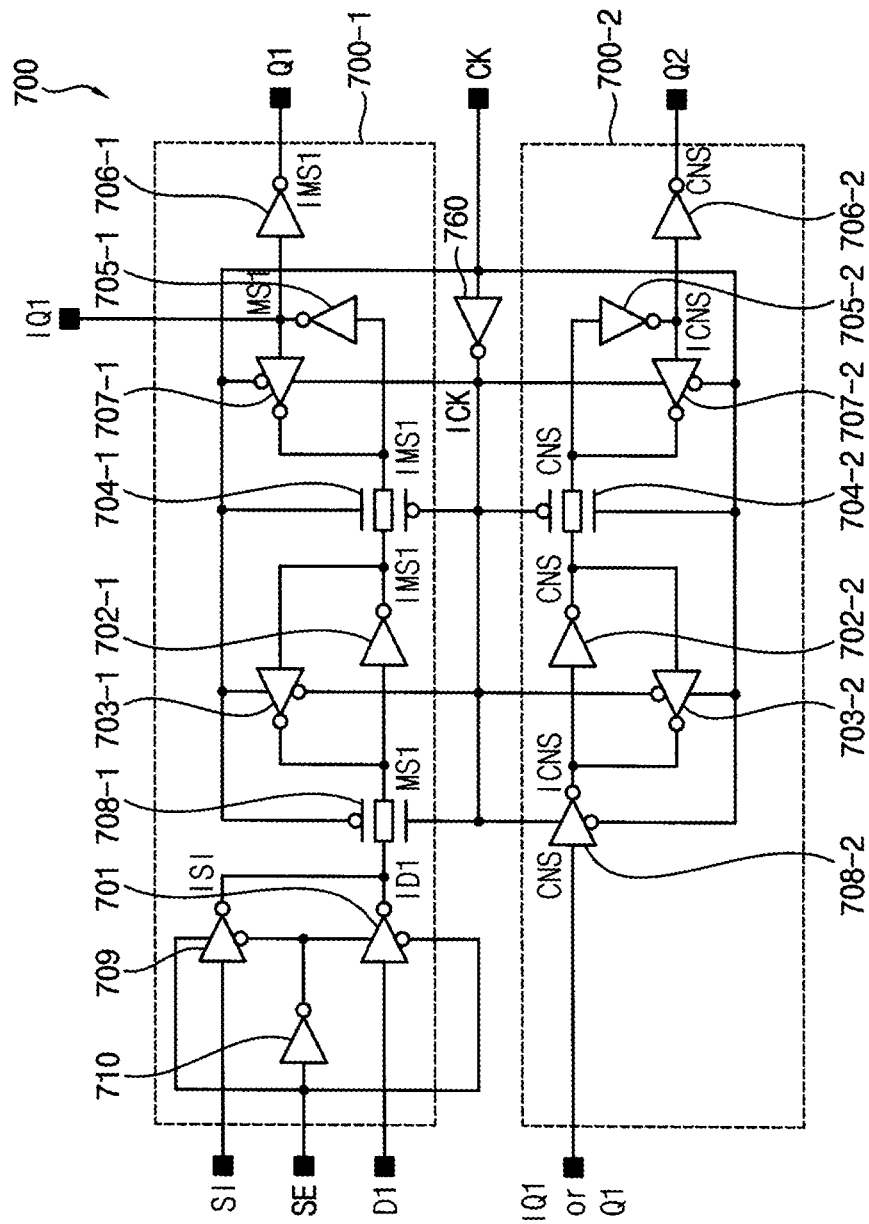
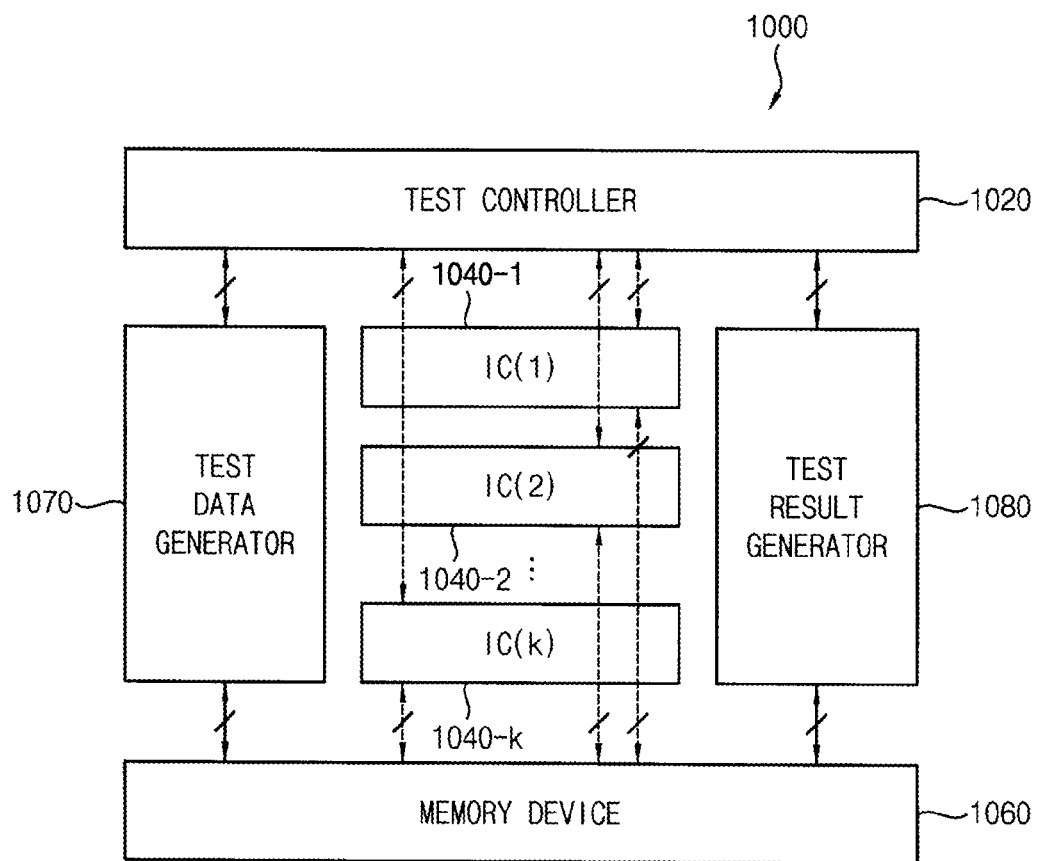


FIG. 20



1

MULTI-BIT FLIP-FLOPS AND SCAN CHAIN CIRCUITS

BACKGROUND

1. Technical Field

Example embodiments relate generally to a logic circuit. More particularly, embodiments of the present inventive concepts relate to a multi-bit flip-flop that operates as a master-slave flip-flop and a scan chain circuit having a structure based on the multi-bit flip-flop.

2. Description of the Related Art

Recently, according to a mobile convergence trend, there is a rising interest on a low power technology for a mobile device (e.g., a smart phone, a smart pad, etc.). Generally, since the mobile device uses a limited power such as a battery, manufacturing (or, designing) the mobile device with low power chips including low power flip-flops is necessary as well as efficient power management for the mobile device to consume low power. A master-slave flip-flop has been used for a long time because a size of the master-slave flip-flop is relatively small and the master-slave flip-flop has high reliability. However, since a conventional master-slave flip-flop consumes much power in a clock path whenever a clock signal is toggled, the conventional master-slave flip-flop cannot satisfy low power level that a recent mobile device of which an operating frequency is relatively high requires.

SUMMARY

Some example embodiments provide a multi-bit flip-flop capable of operating at low power by minimizing (or, reducing) power consumption occurring in a clock path through which a clock signal is transmitted (or, transferred), where the multi-bit flip-flop operates as a master-slave flip-flop.

Some example embodiments provide a scan chain circuit capable of facilitating a scan test to be efficiently performed for an integrated circuit including the scan chain circuit, where the scan chain circuit has a structure based on the multi-bit flip-flop.

According to an aspect of example embodiments, a multi-bit flip-flop may include a plurality of multi-bit flip-flop blocks configured to share a clock signal. Here, each of the multi-bit flip-flop blocks may include a single inverter configured to generate an inverted clock signal by inverting the clock signal, and a plurality of flip-flops each including a master latch part and a slave latch part and configured to operate the master latch part and the slave latch part based on the clock signal and the inverted clock signal, the flip-flops being triggered at rising edges of the clock signal.

In example embodiments, the flip-flops may include a first flip-flop and a second flip-flop, the first flip-flop may output a first input signal latched at the rising edges of the clock signal as a first output signal, and the second flip-flop may output a second input signal latched at the rising edges of the clock signal as a second output signal.

In example embodiments, the first flip-flop may include a first input tri-state inverter coupled to a first signal input terminal through which the first input signal is input and configured to invert the first input signal to output a first inverted input signal when the clock signal has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has a logic 'high' level, a first master inverter coupled to an output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter and configured to invert the first inverted input signal received from the first input tri-state

2

inverter to output the first input signal, a first master latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the first master inverter and the output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter and configured to invert the first input signal received from the first master inverter to output the first inverted input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level, a first transmission gate coupled to the output terminal of the first master inverter and configured to transmit the first input signal received from the first master inverter when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level, a first slave inverter coupled to an output terminal of the first transmission gate and configured to invert the first input signal received from the first transmission gate to output the first inverted input signal, a first slave latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the first slave inverter and the output terminal of the first transmission gate and configured to invert the first inverted input signal received from the first slave inverter to output the first input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, and a first output inverter coupled to the output terminal of the first slave inverter and configured to invert the first inverted input signal received from the first slave inverter to output the first input signal through a first signal output terminal as the first output signal.

In example embodiments, the second flip-flop may include a second input tri-state inverter coupled to a second signal input terminal through which the second input signal is input and configured to invert the second input signal to output a second inverted input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, a second master inverter coupled to an output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter and configured to invert the second inverted input signal received from the second input tri-state inverter to output the second input signal, a second master latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second master inverter and the output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter and configured to invert the second input signal received from the second master inverter to output the second inverted input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level, a second transmission gate coupled to the output terminal of the second master inverter and configured to transmit the second input signal received from the second master inverter when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level, a second slave inverter coupled to an output terminal of the second transmission gate and configured to invert the second input signal received from the second transmission gate to output the second inverted input signal, a second slave latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second slave inverter and the output terminal of the second transmission gate and configured to invert the second inverted input signal received from the second slave inverter to output the second input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, and a second output inverter coupled to the output terminal of the second slave inverter and configured to invert the second inverted input signal received from the second slave inverter to output the second input signal through a second signal output terminal as the second output signal.

In example embodiments, the first flip-flop may include a reset function that resets the first output signal to have the logic 'low' level in response to a reset signal input through

3

a reset terminal, and the second flip-flop may include a reset function that resets the second output signal to have the logic 'low' level in response to the reset signal input through the reset terminal.

In example embodiments, the first flip-flop may include a first input tri-state inverter coupled to a first signal input terminal through which the first input signal is input and configured to invert the first input signal to output a first inverted input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, a first logical XOR element coupled to the reset terminal and an output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter and configured to output a first operation signal by performing a logical XOR operation between the first inverted input signal received from the first input tri-state inverter and the reset signal input through the reset terminal, a first master latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the first logical XOR element and the output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter and configured to invert the first operation signal received from the first logical XOR element to output a first inverted operation signal corresponding to the first inverted input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level, a first transmission gate coupled to the output terminal of the first logical XOR element and configured to transmit the first operation signal received from the first logical XOR element when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level, a first slave inverter coupled to an output terminal of the first transmission gate and configured to invert the first operation signal received from the first transmission gate to output the first inverted operation signal, a first slave latch-reset tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the first slave inverter and the output terminal of the first transmission gate, configured to invert the first inverted operation signal received from the first slave inverter to output the first operation signal when the reset signal has the logic 'low' level, the clock signal has the logic 'low' level, and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, and configured to reset the first operation signal to have the logic 'low' level when the reset signal has the logic 'high' level, and a first output inverter coupled to the output terminal of the first slave inverter and configured to invert the first inverted operation signal received from the first slave inverter to output the first operation signal through a first signal output terminal as the first output signal.

In example embodiments, the second flip-flop may include a second input tri-state inverter coupled to a second signal input terminal through which the second input signal is input and configured to invert the second input signal to output a second inverted input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, a second logical XOR element coupled to the reset terminal and an output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter and configured to output a second operation signal by performing a logical XOR operation between the second inverted input signal received from the second input tri-state inverter and the reset signal input through the reset terminal, a second master latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second logical XOR element and the output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter and configured to invert the second operation signal received from the second logical XOR element to output a second inverted operation signal corresponding to the second inverted input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level, a second transmission gate coupled to the output

4

terminal of the second logical XOR element and configured to transmit the second operation signal received from the second logical XOR element when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level, a second slave inverter coupled to an output terminal of the second transmission gate and configured to invert the second operation signal received from the second transmission gate to output the second inverted operation signal, a second slave latch-reset tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second slave inverter and the output terminal of the second transmission gate, configured to invert the second inverted operation signal received from the second slave inverter to output the second operation signal when the reset signal has the logic 'low' level, the clock signal has the logic 'low' level, and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, and configured to reset the second operation signal to have the logic 'low' level when the reset signal has the logic 'high' level, and a second output inverter coupled to the output terminal of the second slave inverter and configured to invert the second inverted operation signal received from the second slave inverter to output the second operation signal through a second signal output terminal as the second output signal.

In example embodiments, the first flip-flop may include a set function that sets the first output signal to have the logic 'high' level in response to an inverted set signal input through a set terminal, and the second flip-flop may include a set function that sets the second output signal to have the logic 'high' level in response to the inverted set signal input through the set terminal.

In example embodiments, the first flip-flop may include a first input tri-state inverter coupled to a first signal input terminal through which the first input signal is input and configured to invert the first input signal to output a first inverted input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, a first logical NAND element coupled to the set terminal and an output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter and configured to output a first operation signal by performing a logical NAND operation between the first inverted input signal received from the first input tri-state inverter and the inverted set signal input through the set terminal, a first master latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the first logical NAND element and the output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter and configured to invert the first operation signal received from the first logical NAND element to output a first inverted operation signal corresponding to the first inverted input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level, a first transmission gate coupled to the output terminal of the first logical NAND element and configured to transmit the first operation signal received from the first logical NAND element when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level, a first slave inverter coupled to an output terminal of the first transmission gate and configured to invert the first operation signal received from the first transmission gate to output the first inverted operation signal, a first slave latch-set tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the first slave inverter and the output terminal of the first transmission gate, configured to invert the first inverted operation signal received from the first slave inverter to output the first operation signal when the inverted set signal has the logic 'high' level, the clock signal has the logic 'low' level, and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, and configured to set the first operation signal to have the logic

5

'high' level when the inverted set signal has the logic 'low' level, and a first output inverter coupled to the output terminal of the first slave inverter and configured to invert the first inverted operation signal received from the first slave inverter to output the first operation signal through a first signal output terminal as the first output signal.

In example embodiments, the second flip-flop may include a second input tri-state inverter coupled to a second signal input terminal through which the second input signal is input and configured to invert the second input signal to output a second inverted input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, a second logical NAND element coupled to the set terminal and an output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter and configured to output a second operation signal by performing a logical NAND operation between the second inverted input signal received from the second input tri-state inverter and the inverted set signal input through the set terminal, a second master latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second logical NAND element and the output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter and configured to invert the second operation signal received from the second logical NAND element to output a second inverted operation signal corresponding to the second inverted input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level, a second transmission gate coupled to the output terminal of the second logical NAND element and configured to transmit the second operation signal received from the second logical NAND element when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level, a second slave inverter coupled to an output terminal of the second transmission gate and configured to invert the second operation signal received from the second transmission gate to output the second inverted operation signal, a second slave latch-set tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second slave inverter and the output terminal of the second transmission gate, configured to invert the second inverted operation signal received from the second slave inverter to output the second operation signal when the inverted set signal has the logic 'high' level, the clock signal has the logic 'low' level, and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, and configured to set the second operation signal to have the logic 'high' level when the inverted set signal has the logic 'low' level, and a second output inverter coupled to the output terminal of the second slave inverter and configured to invert the second inverted operation signal received from the second slave inverter to output the second operation signal through a second signal output terminal as the second output signal.

According to another aspect of example embodiments, a scan chain circuit may include a plurality of multi-bit flip-flop blocks configured to share a clock signal. Here, each of the multi-bit flip-flop blocks may include a single inverter configured to generate an inverted clock signal by inverting the clock signal, and a plurality of flip-flops each including a multiplexer part, a master latch part, and a slave latch part and configured to operate the master latch part and the slave latch part based on the clock signal and the inverted clock signal, the flip-flops being triggered at rising edges of the clock signal.

In example embodiments, the flip-flops may include a first flip-flop and a second flip-flop, the first flip-flop may output a first input signal or a first scan test signal latched at the rising edges of the clock signal as a first output signal, and the second flip-flop may output a second input signal or a

6

second scan test signal latched at the rising edges of the clock signal as a second output signal.

In example embodiments, the first flip-flop may include a selection inverter coupled to a scan enable signal input terminal through which a scan enable signal is input and configured to invert the scan enable signal to output an inverted scan enable signal, a first input tri-state inverter coupled to a first signal input terminal through which the first input signal is input and configured to invert the first input signal to output a first inverted input signal when the scan enable signal has a logic 'low' level and the inverted scan enable signal has a logic 'high' level, a first scan tri-state inverter coupled to a first scan input terminal through which the first scan test signal is input and configured to invert the first scan test signal to output a first inverted scan test signal when the scan enable signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted scan enable signal has the logic 'low' level, a first multiplexing transmission gate coupled to an output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter and an output terminal of the first scan tri-state inverter and configured to transmit the first inverted input signal or the first inverted scan test signal as a first multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, a first master inverter coupled to an output terminal of the first multiplexing transmission gate and configured to invert the first multiplexing signal received from the first multiplexing transmission gate to output a first inverted multiplexing signal, a first master latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the first master inverter and the output terminal of the first multiplexing transmission gate and configured to invert the first inverted multiplexing signal received from the first master inverter to output the first multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level, a first transmission gate coupled to the output terminal of the first master inverter and configured to transmit the first inverted multiplexing signal received from the first master inverter when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level, a first slave inverter coupled to an output terminal of the first transmission gate and configured to invert the first inverted multiplexing signal received from the first transmission gate to output the first multiplexing signal, a first slave latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the first slave inverter and the output terminal of the first transmission gate and configured to invert the first multiplexing signal received from the first slave inverter to output the first inverted multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, and a first output inverter coupled to the output terminal of the first slave inverter and configured to invert the first multiplexing signal received from the first slave inverter to output the first inverted multiplexing signal through a first signal output terminal as the first output signal.

In example embodiments, the second flip-flop may include a second input tri-state inverter coupled to a second signal input terminal through which the second input signal is input and configured to invert the second input signal to output a second inverted input signal when the scan enable signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted scan enable signal has the logic 'high' level, a second scan tri-state inverter coupled to a second scan input terminal through which the second scan test signal is input and configured to invert the second scan test signal to output a second inverted scan test signal when the scan enable signal has the logic

'high' level and the inverted scan enable signal has the logic 'low' level, a second multiplexing transmission gate coupled to an output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter and an output terminal of the second scan tri-state inverter and configured to transmit the second inverted input signal or the second inverted scan test signal as a second multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, a second master inverter coupled to an output terminal of the second multiplexing transmission gate and configured to invert the second multiplexing signal received from the second multiplexing transmission gate to output a second inverted multiplexing signal, a second master latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second master inverter and the output terminal of the second multiplexing transmission gate and configured to invert the second inverted multiplexing signal received from the second master inverter to output the second multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level, a second transmission gate coupled to the output terminal of the second master inverter and configured to transmit the second inverted multiplexing signal received from the second master inverter when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level, a second slave inverter coupled to an output terminal of the second transmission gate and configured to invert the second inverted multiplexing signal received from the second transmission gate to output the second multiplexing signal, a second slave latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second slave inverter and the output terminal of the second transmission gate and configured to invert the second multiplexing signal received from the second slave inverter to output the second inverted multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, and a second output inverter coupled to the output terminal of the second slave inverter and configured to invert the second multiplexing signal received from the second slave inverter to output the second inverted multiplexing signal through a second signal output terminal as the second output signal.

In example embodiments, the second flip-flop may include a second input tri-state inverter coupled to a second signal input terminal through which the second input signal is input and configured to invert the second input signal to output a second inverted input signal when the scan enable signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted scan enable signal has the logic 'high' level, a second scan transmission gate configured to output a connection signal corresponding to the first output signal or a first inverted output signal generated by inverting the first output signal when the scan enable signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted scan enable signal has the logic 'low' level, a second multiplexing transmission gate coupled to an output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter and an output terminal of the second scan transmission gate and configured to transmit the second inverted input signal or the connection signal as a second multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, a second master inverter coupled to an output terminal of the second multiplexing transmission gate and configured to invert the second multiplexing signal received from the second multiplexing transmission gate to output a second inverted multiplexing signal, a second master latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second master inverter and the output terminal of the second multiplexing transmission gate and configured to invert the

second inverted multiplexing signal received from the second master inverter to output the second multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level, a second transmission gate coupled to the output terminal of the second master inverter and configured to transmit the second inverted multiplexing signal received from the second master inverter when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level, a second slave inverter coupled to an output terminal of the second transmission gate and configured to invert the second inverted multiplexing signal received from the second transmission gate to output the second multiplexing signal, a second slave latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second slave inverter and the output terminal of the second transmission gate and configured to invert the second multiplexing signal received from the second slave inverter to output the second inverted multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, and a second output inverter coupled to the output terminal of the second slave inverter and configured to invert the second multiplexing signal received from the second slave inverter to output the second inverted multiplexing signal through a second signal output terminal as the second output signal.

According to another aspect of example embodiments, a scan chain circuit may include a plurality of multi-bit flip-flop blocks configured to share a clock signal. Here, each of the multi-bit flip-flop blocks may include a single inverter configured to generate an inverted clock signal by inverting the clock signal, a first flip-flop including a first multiplexer part, a first master latch part, and a first slave latch part and configured to operate the first master latch part and the first slave latch part based on the clock signal and the inverted clock signal, the first flip-flop being triggered at rising edges of the clock signal, and a second flip-flop including a second master latch part and a second slave latch part and configured to operate the second master latch part and the second slave latch part based on the clock signal and the inverted clock signal, the second flip-flop being triggered at the rising edges of the clock signal.

In example embodiments, the first flip-flop may output a first input signal or a first scan test signal latched at the rising edges of the clock signal as a first output signal, and the second flip-flop may output the first output signal or a first inverted output signal latched at the rising edges of the clock signal as a second output signal, the first inverted output signal being generated by inverting the first output signal.

In example embodiments, the first flip-flop may be directly coupled to the second flip-flop or may be coupled to the second flip-flop via at least one buffer or at least one inverter located between the first flip-flop and the second flip-flop.

In example embodiments, the first flip-flop may include a selection inverter coupled to a scan enable signal input terminal through which a scan enable signal is input and configured to invert the scan enable signal to output an inverted scan enable signal, a first input tri-state inverter coupled to a first signal input terminal through which the first input signal is input and configured to invert the first input signal to output a first inverted input signal when the scan enable signal has a logic 'low' level and the inverted scan enable signal has a logic 'high' level, a first scan tri-state inverter coupled to a first scan input terminal through which the first scan test signal is input and configured to invert the first scan test signal to output a first inverted scan test signal when the scan enable signal has the

logic 'high' level and the inverted scan enable signal has the logic 'low' level, a first multiplexing transmission gate coupled to an output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter and an output terminal of the first scan tri-state inverter and configured to transmit the first inverted input signal or the first inverted scan test signal as a first multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, a first master inverter coupled to an output terminal of the first multiplexing transmission gate and configured to invert the first multiplexing signal received from the first multiplexing transmission gate to output a first inverted multiplexing signal, a first master latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the first master inverter and the output terminal of the first multiplexing transmission gate and configured to invert the first inverted multiplexing signal received from the first master inverter to output the first multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level, a first transmission gate coupled to the output terminal of the first master inverter and configured to transmit the first inverted multiplexing signal received from the first master inverter when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level, a first slave inverter coupled to an output terminal of the first transmission gate and configured to invert the first inverted multiplexing signal received from the first transmission gate to output the first multiplexing signal, a first slave latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the first slave inverter and the output terminal of the first transmission gate and configured to invert the first multiplexing signal received from the first slave inverter to output the first inverted multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, and a first output inverter coupled to the output terminal of the first slave inverter and configured to invert the first multiplexing signal received from the first slave inverter to output the first inverted multiplexing signal through a first signal output terminal as the first output signal.

In example embodiments, the second flip-flop may include a second connection tri-state inverter configured to invert a connection signal corresponding to the first output signal or the first inverted output signal to output an inverted connection signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, a second master inverter coupled to an output terminal of the second connection tri-state inverter and configured to invert the inverted connection signal received from the second connection tri-state inverter to output the connection signal, a second master latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second master inverter and the output terminal of the second connection tri-state inverter and configured to invert the connection signal received from the second master inverter to output the inverted connection signal when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level, a second transmission gate coupled to the output terminal of the second master inverter and configured to transmit the connection signal received from the second master inverter when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level, a second slave inverter coupled to an output terminal of the second transmission gate and configured to invert the connection signal received from the second transmission gate to output the inverted connection signal, a second slave latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second

slave inverter and the output terminal of the second transmission gate and configured to invert the inverted connection signal received from the second slave inverter to output the connection signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, and a second output inverter coupled to the output terminal of the second slave inverter and configured to invert the inverted connection signal received from the second slave inverter to output the connection signal through a second signal output terminal as the second output signal.

Therefore, a multi-bit flip-flop according to example embodiments may minimize (or, reduce) power consumption occurring in a clock path through which a clock signal is transmitted (or, transferred) by including multi-bit flip-flop blocks each including a single inverter that inverts the clock signal to generate an inverted clock signal and a plurality of flip-flops that are triggered at rising edges of the clock signal, where each of the flip-flops includes a master latch part and a slave latch part, and by controlling the multi-bit flip-flop blocks to share the clock signal. As a result, the multi-bit flip-flop may operate as a master-slave flip-flop at low power.

In addition, a scan chain circuit according to example embodiments may facilitate a scan test to be efficiently performed for an integrated circuit including the scan chain circuit, where the scan chain circuit has a structure based on the multi-bit flip-flop.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Illustrative, non-limiting example embodiments will be more clearly understood from the following detailed description in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a multi-bit flip-flop according to example embodiments.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram for describing a multi-bit flip-flop block included in the multi-bit flip-flop of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a diagram illustrating an example of the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is a timing diagram illustrating an example in which the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. 3 operates.

FIG. 5A is a diagram illustrating a tri-state inverter included in the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. 3.

FIG. 5B is a circuit diagram illustrating an example of a tri-state inverter included in the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. 3.

FIG. 6A is a diagram illustrating a transmission gate included in the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. 3.

FIG. 6B is a circuit diagram illustrating an example of a transmission gate included in the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. 3.

FIG. 7 is a diagram illustrating another example of the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. 2.

FIG. 8A is a diagram illustrating a slave latch-reset tri-state inverter included in the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. 7.

FIG. 8B is a circuit diagram illustrating an example of a slave latch-reset tri-state inverter included in the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. 7.

FIG. 9 is a diagram illustrating still another example of the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. 2.

FIG. 10A is a diagram illustrating a slave latch-set tri-state inverter included in the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. 9.

FIG. 10B is a circuit diagram illustrating an example of a slave latch-set tri-state inverter included in the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. 9.

11

FIG. 11 is a block diagram illustrating an integrated circuit including a scan chain circuit according to example embodiments.

FIG. 12 is a block diagram for describing an operation of a flip-flop included in the scan chain circuit of the integrated circuit of FIG. 11.

FIG. 13 is a timing diagram for describing an operation of a flip-flop included in the scan chain circuit of the integrated circuit of FIG. 11.

FIG. 14 is a block diagram illustrating an example of a multi-bit flip-flop block included in the scan chain circuit of the integrated circuit of FIG. 11.

FIG. 15 is a circuit diagram illustrating an example of a multi-bit flip-flop block included in the scan chain circuit of the integrated circuit of FIG. 11.

FIG. 16 is a block diagram illustrating another example of a multi-bit flip-flop block included in the scan chain circuit of the integrated circuit of FIG. 11.

FIG. 17 is a circuit diagram illustrating another example of a multi-bit flip-flop block included in the scan chain circuit of the integrated circuit of FIG. 11.

FIG. 18 is a block diagram illustrating still another example of a multi-bit flip-flop block included in the scan chain circuit of the integrated circuit of FIG. 11.

FIG. 19 is a circuit diagram illustrating still another example of a multi-bit flip-flop block included in the scan chain circuit of the integrated circuit of FIG. 11.

FIG. 20 is a block diagram illustrating an integrated circuit testing system according to example embodiments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXAMPLE EMBODIMENTS

Various example embodiments will be described more fully with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which some example embodiments are shown. The present inventive concepts may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the example embodiments set forth herein. Rather, these example embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the scope of the present inventive concepts to those skilled in the art. Like reference numerals refer to like elements throughout this application.

It will be understood that, although the terms first, second, etc. may be used herein to describe various elements, these elements should not be limited by these terms. These terms are used to distinguish one element from another. For example, a first element could be termed a second element, and, similarly, a second element could be termed a first element, without departing from the scope of the present inventive concepts. As used herein, the term “and/or” includes any and all combinations of one or more of the associated listed items.

It will be understood that when an element is referred to as being “connected” or “coupled” to another element, it can be directly connected or coupled to the other element or intervening elements may be present. In contrast, when an element is referred to as being “directly connected” or “directly coupled” to another element, there are no intervening elements present. Other words used to describe the relationship between elements should be interpreted in a like fashion (e.g., “between” versus “directly between,” “adjacent” versus “directly adjacent,” etc.).

The terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular example embodiments and is not intended to be limiting of the inventive concepts. As used herein, the

12

singular forms “a,” “an” and “the” are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. It will be further understood that the terms “comprises,” “comprising,” “includes” and/or “including,” when used herein, specify the presence of stated features, integers, steps, operations, elements, and/or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, operations, elements, components, and/or groups thereof.

Unless otherwise defined, all terms (including technical and scientific terms) used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this inventive concept belongs. It will be further understood that terms, such as those defined in commonly used dictionaries, should be interpreted as having a meaning that is consistent with their meaning in the context of the relevant art and will not be interpreted in an idealized or overly formal sense unless expressly so defined herein.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a multi-bit flip-flop according to example embodiments. FIG. 2 is a block diagram for describing a multi-bit flip-flop block included in the multi-bit flip-flop of FIG. 1.

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, the multi-bit flip-flop 10 may include a plurality of multi-bit flip-flop blocks 100 that share a clock signal CK. Here, each of the multi-bit flip-flop blocks 100 may include a single inverter 160 and first through (n)th flip-flops 100-1 through 100-n, where n is an integer greater than or equal to 2. As illustrated in FIG. 1, each of the first through (n)th flip-flops 100-1 through 100-n may be coupled to the single inverter 160. In addition, each of the first through (n)th flip-flops 100-1 through 100-n may receive the clock signal CK and an inverted clock signal ICK that is generated by inverting the clock signal CK. Here, the first through (n)th flip-flops 100-1 through 100-n may output first through (n)th input signals D1 through Dn latched at rising edges of the clock signal CK (i.e., at falling edges of the inverted clock signal ICK) as first through (n)th output signals Q1 through Qn, respectively. That is, the first through (n)th flip-flops 100-1 through 100-n may be triggered at the rising edges of the clock signal CK. Hereinafter, as illustrated in FIG. 2, for convenience of description, it is assumed that the multi-bit flip-flop block 100 includes the single inverter 160, the first flip-flop 100-1, and the second flip-flop 100-2 (i.e., 2-bit flip-flop block).

The first flip-flop 100-1 may include a first master latch part 120-1 and a first slave latch part 140-1. The first flip-flop 100-1 may operate the first master latch part 120-1 and the first slave latch part 140-1 based on the clock signal CK and the inverted clock signal ICK. As illustrated in FIG. 2, the first master latch part 120-1 and the first slave latch part 140-1 may receive the clock signal CK and the inverted clock signal ICK. In addition, the first master latch part 120-1 and the first slave latch part 140-1 may be controlled by the clock signal CK and the inverted clock signal ICK. Here, the first master latch part 120-1 may include at least one inverter, at least one tri-state inverter, and/or at least one transmission gate, and the first slave latch part 140-1 may include at least one inverter, at least one tri-state inverter, and/or at least one transmission gate. Thus, the first master latch part 120-1 and the first slave latch part 140-1 may operate in a way that the tri-state inverter and/or the transmission gate are controlled by the clock signal CK and the inverted clock signal ICK. Specifically, the first master latch part 120-1 may latch the first input signal D1 at the rising edges of the clock signal CK (i.e., at the falling edges of the inverted clock signal ICK) to transmit a transmission signal corresponding to the first input signal D1 to the first slave

13

latch part **140-1**, and the first slave latch part **140-1** may latch the transmission signal transmitted from the first master latch part **120-1** to output the first output signal **Q1** based on the latched transmission signal. In other words, the first flip-flop **100-1** may be triggered at the rising edges of the clock signal **CK**. In an example embodiment, the first flip-flop **100-1** may include a reset function that resets the first output signal **Q1** to have a first logic level (e.g., a logic 'low' level). In another example embodiment, the first flip-flop **100-1** may include a set function that sets the first output signal **Q1** to have a second logic level (e.g., a logic 'high' level). In still another example embodiment, the first flip-flop **100-1** may include the reset function that resets the first output signal **Q1** to have the first logic level and the set function that sets the first output signal **Q1** to have the second logic level. In some example embodiments, the first flip-flop **100-1** may include other functions. For example, the first flip-flop **100-1** may include a retention function that retains (or, maintains) data.

The second flip-flop **100-2** may include a second master latch part **120-2** and a second slave latch part **140-2**. The second flip-flop **100-2** may operate the second master latch part **120-2** and the second slave latch part **140-2** based on the clock signal **CK** and the inverted clock signal **ICK**. As illustrated in FIG. 2, the second master latch part **120-2** and the second slave latch part **140-2** may receive the clock signal **CK** and the inverted clock signal **ICK**. In addition, the second master latch part **120-2** and the second slave latch part **140-2** may be controlled by the clock signal **CK** and the inverted clock signal **ICK**. Here, the second master latch part **120-2** may include at least one inverter, at least one tri-state inverter, and/or at least one transmission gate, and the second slave latch part **140-2** may include at least one inverter, at least one tri-state inverter, and/or at least one transmission gate. Thus, the second master latch part **120-2** and the second slave latch part **140-2** may operate in a way that the tri-state inverter and/or the transmission gate are controlled by the clock signal **CK** and the inverted clock signal **ICK**. Specifically, the second master latch part **120-2** may latch the second input signal **D2** at the rising edges of the clock signal **CK** (i.e., at the falling edges of the inverted clock signal **ICK**) to transmit a transmission signal corresponding to the second input signal **D2** to the second slave latch part **140-2**, and the second slave latch part **140-2** may latch the transmission signal transmitted from the second master latch part **120-2** to output the second output signal **Q2** based on the latched transmission signal. In other words, the second flip-flop **100-2** may be triggered at the rising edges of the clock signal **CK**. In an example embodiment, the second flip-flop **100-2** may include a reset function that resets the second output signal **Q2** to have a first logic level (e.g., a logic 'low' level). In another example embodiment, the second flip-flop **100-2** may include a set function that sets the second output signal **Q2** to have a second logic level (e.g., a logic 'high' level). In still another example embodiment, the second flip-flop **100-2** may include the reset function that resets the second output signal **Q2** to have the first logic level and the set function that sets the second output signal **Q2** to have the second logic level. In some example embodiments, the second flip-flop **100-2** may include other functions. For example, the second flip-flop **100-2** may include a retention function that retains (or, maintains) data.

The single inverter **160** may invert the clock signal **CK** to generate the inverted clock signal **ICK** and may provide the clock signal **CK** and the inverted clock signal **ICK** to the first flip-flop **100-1** and the second flip-flop **100-2**. Since the

14

multi-bit flip-flop block **100** has a structure including only the single inverter **160**, the multi-bit flip-flop **10** may reduce power consumption compared to a conventional multi-bit flip-flop that has a structure including a plurality of inverters, where the power consumption occurs in a clock path including the inverters as the inverters operate whenever the clock signal **CK** transmitted through the clock path is changed from a logic 'low' level to a logic 'high' level or from a logic 'high' level to a logic 'low' level (i.e., toggled). That is, since power consumption of the multi-bit flip-flop **10** increases less than that of the conventional multi-bit flip-flop as an operating frequency (e.g., a frequency of the clock signal **CK**) increases, the multi-bit flip-flop **10** may satisfy low power level that a recent mobile device of which the operating frequency is relatively high requires. As described above, the flip-flops **100-1** through **100-n** included in the multi-bit flip-flop block **100** (e.g., the first flip-flop **100-1** and the second flip-flop **100-2** in FIG. 2) may have the same structure. Thus, the flip-flops **100-1** through **100-n** included in the multi-bit flip-flop block **100** may be controlled based on the clock signal **CK** and the inverted clock signal **ICK** provided from the single inverter **160**. Here, the flip-flops **100-1** through **100-n** included in the multi-bit flip-flop block **100** may be triggered at the rising edges of the clock signal **CK** (i.e., at the falling edges of the inverted clock signal **ICK**). As a result, the first master latch part **120-1** included in the first flip-flop **100-1** and the second master latch part **120-2** included in the second flip-flop **100-2** may be in a lock-state when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'high' level and may be in a pass-state when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level. In addition, the first slave latch part **140-1** included in the first flip-flop **100-1** and the second slave latch part **140-2** included in the second flip-flop **100-2** may be in a pass-state when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'high' level and may be in a lock-state when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level.

In brief, the multi-bit flip-flop **10** may minimize (or, reduce) power consumption occurring in a clock path through which the clock signal **CK** is transmitted (or, transferred) by including the multi-bit flip-flop blocks **100** each including the single inverter **160** that inverts the clock signal **CK** to generate the inverted clock signal **ICK** and the flip-flops **100-1** through **100-n** that are triggered at the rising edges of the clock signal **CK**, where each of the flip-flops **100-1** through **100-n** includes the master latch part **120-1** through **120-n** and the slave latch part **140-1** through **140-n**, and by controlling the multi-bit flip-flop blocks **100** to share the clock signal **CK**. As a result, the multi-bit flip-flop **10** may operate as a master-slave flip-flop at low power. In addition, since the multi-bit flip-flop **10** operates at low power, the multi-bit flip-flop **10** may be applied to low power and high performance chips for low power and high performance mobile devices.

FIG. 3 is a diagram illustrating an example of the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. 2. FIG. 4 is a timing diagram illustrating an example in which the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. 3 operates.

Referring to FIGS. 3 and 4, the multi-bit flip-flop block **100** may include a single inverter **160**, a first flip-flop **100-1**, and a second flip-flop **100-2**. Here, the first flip-flop **100-1** may latch a first input signal **D1** at rising edges of a clock signal **CK** (i.e., at falling edges of an inverted clock signal **ICK**) to output the first input signal **D1** as a first output signal **Q1**, and the second flip-flop **100-2** may latch a second input signal **D2** at the rising edges of the clock signal **CK** (i.e., at the falling edges of the inverted clock signal **ICK**) to output the second input signal **D2** as a second output signal **Q2**.

15

However, since a structure of the multi-bit flip-flop block **100** illustrated in FIG. **3** is an example, a structure of the multi-bit flip-flop block **100** is not limited thereto.

The first flip-flop **100-1** may include a first input tri-state inverter **101-1**, a first master inverter **102-1**, a first master latch tri-state inverter **103-1**, a first transmission gate **104-1**, a first slave inverter **105-1**, a first output inverter **106-1**, and a first slave latch tri-state inverter **107-1**. The first input tri-state inverter **101-1** may be coupled to a first signal input terminal through which the first input signal **D1** is input. That is, the first input tri-state inverter **101-1** may be coupled between the first signal input terminal and the first master inverter **102-1**. Here, the first input tri-state inverter **101-1** may invert the first input signal **D1** to output a first inverted input signal **ID1** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the first input tri-state inverter **101-1** may separate the first master inverter **102-1** from the first signal input terminal when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'low' level. The first master inverter **102-1** may be coupled to an output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter **101-1**. That is, the first master inverter **102-1** may be coupled between the first input tri-state inverter **101-1** and the first transmission gate **104-1**. Here, the first master inverter **102-1** may invert the first inverted input signal **ID1** received from the first input tri-state inverter **101-1** to output the first input signal **D1**. The first master latch tri-state inverter **103-1** may be coupled between an output terminal of the first master inverter **102-1** and an output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter **101-1**. Here, the first master latch tri-state inverter **103-1** may invert the first input signal **D1** received from the first master inverter **102-1** to output the first inverted input signal **ID1** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the first master latch tri-state inverter **103-1** may separate the output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter **101-1** from the output terminal of the first master inverter **102-1** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'high' level.

The first transmission gate **104-1** may be coupled to the output terminal of the first master inverter **102-1**. That is, the first transmission gate **104-1** may be coupled between the first master inverter **102-1** and the first slave inverter **105-1**. The first transmission gate **104-1** may transmit the first input signal **D1** received from the first master inverter **102-1** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the first transmission gate **104-1** may separate the first slave inverter **105-1** from the first master inverter **102-1** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'high' level. The first slave inverter **105-1** may be coupled to an output terminal of the first transmission gate **104-1**. That is, the first slave inverter **105-1** may be coupled between the first transmission gate **104-1** and the first output inverter **106-1**. The first slave inverter **105-1** may invert the first input signal **D1** received from the first transmission gate **104-1** to output the first inverted input signal **ID1**. The first output inverter **106-1** may be coupled to an output terminal of the first slave inverter **105-1**. That is, the first output inverter **106-1** may be coupled between the first slave inverter **105-1** and a first signal output terminal through which the first output signal **Q1** is output. The first output inverter **106-1** may invert the first inverted input signal **ID1** received from the first slave inverter **105-1** to output the first input signal **D1** as the first

16

output signal **Q1** through the first signal output terminal. The first slave latch tri-state inverter **107-1** may be coupled between an output terminal of the first slave inverter **105-1** and an output terminal of the first transmission gate **104-1**. Here, the first slave latch tri-state inverter **107-1** may invert the first inverted input signal **ID1** received from the first slave inverter **105-1** to output the first input signal **D1** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the first slave latch tri-state inverter **107-1** may separate the output terminal of the first transmission gate **104-1** from the output terminal of the first slave inverter **105-1** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'low' level.

The second flip-flop **100-2** may include a second input tri-state inverter **101-2**, a second master inverter **102-2**, a second master latch tri-state inverter **103-2**, a second transmission gate **104-2**, a second slave inverter **105-2**, a second output inverter **106-2**, and a second slave latch tri-state inverter **107-2**. The second input tri-state inverter **101-2** may be coupled to a second signal input terminal through which the second input signal **D2** is input. That is, the second input tri-state inverter **101-2** may be coupled between the second signal input terminal and the second master inverter **102-2**. Here, the second input tri-state inverter **101-2** may invert the second input signal **D2** to output a second inverted input signal **ID2** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the second input tri-state inverter **101-2** may separate the second master inverter **102-2** from the second signal input terminal when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'low' level. The second master inverter **102-2** may be coupled to an output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter **101-2**. That is, the second master inverter **102-2** may be coupled between the second input tri-state inverter **101-2** and the second transmission gate **104-2**. Here, the second master inverter **102-2** may invert the second inverted input signal **ID2** received from the second input tri-state inverter **101-2** to output the second input signal **D2**. The second master latch tri-state inverter **103-2** may be coupled between an output terminal of the second master inverter **102-2** and an output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter **101-2**. Here, the second master latch tri-state inverter **103-2** may invert the second input signal **D2** received from the second master inverter **102-2** to output the second inverted input signal **ID2** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the second master latch tri-state inverter **103-2** may separate the output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter **101-2** from the output terminal of the second master inverter **102-2** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'high' level.

The second transmission gate **104-2** may be coupled to the output terminal of the second master inverter **102-2**. That is, the second transmission gate **104-2** may be coupled between the second master inverter **102-2** and the second slave inverter **105-2**. The second transmission gate **104-2** may transmit the second input signal **D2** received from the second master inverter **102-2** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the second transmission gate **104-2** may separate the second slave inverter **105-2** from the second master inverter **102-2** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'high' level. The second slave inverter **105-2** may

17

be coupled to an output terminal of the second transmission gate **104-2**. That is, the second slave inverter **105-2** may be coupled between the second transmission gate **104-2** and the second output inverter **106-2**. The second slave inverter **105-2** may invert the second input signal **D2** received from the second transmission gate **104-2** to output the second inverted input signal **ID2**. The second output inverter **106-2** may be coupled to an output terminal of the second slave inverter **105-2**. That is, the second output inverter **106-2** may be coupled between the second slave inverter **105-2** and a second signal output terminal through which the second output signal **Q2** is output. The second output inverter **106-2** may invert the second inverted input signal **ID2** received from the second slave inverter **105-2** to output the second input signal **D2** as the second output signal **Q2** through the second signal output terminal. The second slave latch tri-state inverter **107-2** may be coupled between an output terminal of the second slave inverter **105-2** and an output terminal of the second transmission gate **104-2**. Here, the second slave latch tri-state inverter **107-2** may invert the second inverted input signal **ID2** received from the second slave inverter **105-2** to output the second input signal **D2** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the second slave latch tri-state inverter **107-2** may separate the output terminal of the second transmission gate **104-2** from the output terminal of the second slave inverter **105-2** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'low' level.

Specifically, when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level, the first input tri-state inverter **101-1** of the first flip-flop **100-1** and the second input tri-state inverter **101-2** of the second flip-flop **100-2** may operate, but the first transmission gate **104-1** and the first master latch tri-state inverter **103-1** of the first flip-flop **100-1** and the second transmission gate **104-2** and the second master latch tri-state inverter **103-2** of the second flip-flop **100-2** may not operate. In this situation, when a logic level of the clock signal **CK** is changed from a logic 'low' level to a logic 'high' level (i.e., the rising edges of the clock signal **CK**), the first input tri-state inverter **101-1** of the first flip-flop **100-1** and the second input tri-state inverter **101-2** of the second flip-flop **100-2** may not operate, but the first master latch tri-state inverter **103-1** of the first flip-flop **100-1** and the second master latch tri-state inverter **103-2** of the second flip-flop **100-2** may operate. Thus, the first input signal **D1** applied to the first signal input terminal and the second input signal **D2** applied to the second signal input terminal may be latched. Meanwhile, when the logic level of the clock signal **CK** is changed from a logic 'low' level to a logic 'high' level, the first transmission gate **104-1** of the first flip-flop **100-1** and the second transmission gate **104-2** of the second flip-flop **100-2** may operate. Thus, the latched first input signal **D1** may be output as the first output signal **Q1** via the first transmission gate **104-1**, the first slave inverter **105-1**, and the first output inverter **106-1** of the first flip-flop **100-1**, and the latched second input signal **D2** may be output as the second output signal **Q2** via the second transmission gate **104-2**, the second slave inverter **105-2**, and the second output inverter **106-2** of the second flip-flop **100-2**. Subsequently, when the logic level of the clock signal **CK** is changed from a logic 'high' level to a logic 'low' level (i.e., the falling edges of the clock signal **CK**), the first input tri-state inverter **101-1** of the first flip-flop **100-1** and the second input tri-state inverter **101-2** of the second flip-flop **100-2** may operate, but the first transmission gate **104-1** of

18

the first flip-flop **100-1** and the second transmission gate **104-2** of the second flip-flop **100-2** may not operate. Thus, the first slave inverter **105-1** may be separated (or, blocked) from the first master inverter **102-1** in the first flip-flop **100-1**, and the second slave inverter **105-2** may be separated (or, blocked) from the second master inverter **102-2** in the second flip-flop **100-2**. Meanwhile, when the logic level of the clock signal **CK** is changed from a logic 'high' level to a logic 'low' level, the first slave latch tri-state inverter **107-1** of the first flip-flop **100-1** and the second slave latch tri-state inverter **107-2** of the second flip-flop **100-2** may operate. Thus, the first flip-flop **100-1** may output the latched first input signal **D1** as the first output signal **Q1** through the first signal output terminal and the second flip-flop **100-2** may output the latched second input signal **D2** as the second output signal **Q2** through the second signal output terminal until the logic level of the clock signal **CK** is changed from a logic 'low' level to a logic 'high' level (i.e., the rising edges of the clock signal **CK**).

FIG. 4 shows an example in which the multi-bit flip-flop block **100** operates. For convenience of description, an operation of the multi-bit flip-flop block **100** will be described by focusing on the (j)th flip-flop **100-j** among the flip-flops **100-1** through **100-n** included in the multi-bit flip-flop block **100**, where j is an integer between 1 and n. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 3, the (j)th flip-flop **100-j** may output a (j)th output signal **Qj** by latching a (j)th input signal **Dj** (i.e., indicated as TIA) at the rising edges of the clock signal **CK** (i.e., at the falling edges of the inverted clock signal **ICK**). Here, since the latched (j)th input signal **Dj** has a logic 'low' level, the (j)th flip-flop **100-j** may output the (j)th output signal **Qj** having a logic 'low' level. Meanwhile, since the (j)th flip-flop **100-j** is triggered only at the rising edges of the clock signal **CK**, the (j)th output signal **Qj** output from the (j)th flip-flop **100-j** may not be changed until a next rising edge of the clock signal **CK**. Subsequently, since the (j)th input signal **Dj** latched at a next rising edge of the clock signal **CK** (i.e., indicated as TIB) has a logic 'high' level, a logic level of the (j)th output signal **Qj** output from the (j)th flip-flop **100-j** may be changed from a logic 'low' level to a logic 'high' level. Next, since the (j)th input signal **Dj** latched at a next rising edge of the clock signal **CK** (i.e., indicated as TIC) has a logic 'high' level, the (j)th flip-flop **100-j** may output the (j)th output signal **Qj** having a logic 'high' level. Subsequently, since the (j)th input signal **Dj** latched at a next rising edge of the clock signal **CK** (i.e., indicated as TID) has a logic 'low' level, the logic level of the (j)th output signal **Qj** output from the (j)th flip-flop **100-j** may be changed from a logic 'high' level to a logic 'low' level. Next, since the (j)th input signal **Dj** latched at a next rising edge of the clock signal **CK** (i.e., indicated as TIE) has a logic 'low' level, the (j)th flip-flop **100-j** may output the (j)th output signal **Qj** having a logic 'low' level. Subsequently, since the (j)th input signal **Dj** latched at a next rising edge of the clock signal **CK** (i.e., indicated as TIF) has a logic 'high' level, the logic level of the (j)th output signal **Qj** output from the (j)th flip-flop **100-j** may be changed from a logic 'low' level to a logic 'high' level. Next, since the (j)th input signal **Dj** latched at a next rising edge of the clock signal **CK** (i.e., indicated as TIG) has a logic 'high' level, the (j)th flip-flop **100-j** may output the (j)th output signal **Qj** having a logic 'high' level.

FIG. 5A is a diagram illustrating a tri-state inverter included in the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. 3. FIG. 5B is a circuit diagram illustrating an example of a tri-state inverter included in the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. 3.

19

Referring to FIGS. 5A and 5B, the tri-state inverter **111** included in the multi-bit flip-flop block **100** may be controlled by a control signal C and an inverted control signal IC that is generated by inverting the control signal C. Here, the control signal C may be a clock signal CK that is applied to the multi-bit flip-flop block **100** or an inverted clock signal ICK that is generated by inverting the clock signal CK. Thus, the inverted control signal IC may be the inverted clock signal ICK or the clock signal CK.

As illustrated in FIG. 5A, the tri-state inverter **111** may perform an operation that inverts an input signal A to output an output signal Y when the control signal C has a logic 'high' level and the inverted control signal IC has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the tri-state inverter **111** may not perform the operation that inverts the input signal A to output the output signal Y when the control signal C has a logic 'low' level and the inverted control signal IC has a logic 'high' level. For this operation, as illustrated in FIG. 5B, the tri-state inverter **111** may include a first p-channel metal-oxide semiconductor (PMOS) transistor PTR1, a second PMOS transistor PTR2, a first n-channel metal-oxide semiconductor (NMOS) transistor NTR1, and a second NMOS transistor NTR2. The first PMOS transistor PTR1 may be coupled between the second PMOS transistor PTR2 and a first power voltage VDD corresponding to a logic 'high' level. Here, a gate electrode of the first PMOS transistor PTR1 may receive the input signal A. The second PMOS transistor PTR2 may be coupled between the first PMOS transistor PTR1 and the second NMOS transistor NTR2. Here, a gate electrode of the second PMOS transistor PTR2 may receive the inverted control signal IC. The first NMOS transistor NTR1 may be coupled between the second NMOS transistor NTR2 and a second power voltage GND corresponding to a logic 'low' level. Here, a gate electrode of the first NMOS transistor NTR1 may receive the input signal A. The second NMOS transistor NTR2 may be coupled between the first NMOS transistor NTR1 and the second PMOS transistor PTR2. Here, a gate electrode of the second NMOS transistor NTR2 may receive the control signal C. A node coupled to one electrode of the second PMOS transistor PTR2 and one electrode of the second NMOS transistor NTR2 may be an output node, and thus the output signal Y may be output through the output node. Thus, when the control signal C has a logic 'high' level and the inverted control signal IC has a logic 'low' level, the second PMOS transistor PTR2 and the second NMOS transistor NTR2 may be turned on. Here, when the input signal A has a logic 'high' level, the first NMOS transistor NTR1 may be turned on, so that the output signal Y having a logic 'low' level may be output. On the other hand, when the input signal A has a logic 'low' level, the first PMOS transistor PTR1 may be turned on, so that the output signal Y having a logic 'high' level may be output. Since the tri-state inverter **111** illustrated in FIGS. 5A and 5B is an example, the tri-state inverter **111** included in the multi-bit flip-flop block **100** is not limited thereto.

FIG. 6A is a diagram illustrating a transmission gate included in the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. 3. FIG. 6B is a circuit diagram illustrating an example of a transmission gate included in the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. 3.

Referring to FIGS. 6A and 6B, the transmission gate **112** included in the multi-bit flip-flop block **100** may be controlled by a control signal C and an inverted control signal IC that is generated by inverting the control signal C. Here, the control signal C may be a clock signal CK that is applied to the multi-bit flip-flop block **100** or an inverted clock signal ICK that is generated by inverting the clock signal

20

CK. Thus, the inverted control signal IC may be the inverted clock signal ICK or the clock signal CK.

As illustrated in FIG. 6A, the transmission gate **112** may perform an operation that outputs an input signal A as an output signal Y when the control signal C has a logic 'high' level and the inverted control signal IC has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the transmission gate **112** may not perform the operation that outputs the input signal A as the output signal Y when the control signal C has a logic 'low' level and the inverted control signal IC has a logic 'high' level. For this operation, as illustrated in FIG. 6B, the transmission gate **112** may include a first PMOS transistor PTR1, a second PMOS transistor PTR2, a first NMOS transistor NTR1, and a second NMOS transistor NTR2. The first NMOS transistor NTR1 may be coupled between the second NMOS transistor NTR2 and a first power voltage VDD corresponding to a logic 'high' level. Here, a gate electrode of the first NMOS transistor NTR1 may receive the input signal A. The second NMOS transistor NTR2 may be coupled between the first NMOS transistor NTR1 and the second PMOS transistor PTR2. Here, a gate electrode of the second NMOS transistor NTR2 may receive the control signal C. The first PMOS transistor PTR1 may be coupled between the second PMOS transistor PTR2 and a second power voltage GND corresponding to a logic 'low' level. Here, a gate electrode of the first PMOS transistor PTR1 may receive the input signal A. The second PMOS transistor PTR2 may be coupled between the first PMOS transistor PTR1 and the second NMOS transistor NTR2. Here, a gate electrode of the second PMOS transistor PTR2 may receive the inverted control signal IC. A node coupled to one electrode of the second PMOS transistor PTR2 and one electrode of the second NMOS transistor NTR2 may be an output node, and thus the output signal Y may be output through the output node. In some example embodiments, the other electrode of the second PMOS transistor PTR2 may be coupled to the other electrode of the second NMOS transistor NTR2. Thus, when the control signal C has a logic 'high' level and the inverted control signal IC has a logic 'low' level, the second NMOS transistor NTR2 and the second PMOS transistor PTR2 may be turned on. Here, when the input signal A has a logic 'high' level, the first NMOS transistor NTR1 may be turned on, so that the output signal Y having a logic 'high' level may be output. On the other hand, when the input signal A has a logic 'low' level, the first PMOS transistor PTR1 may be turned on, so that the output signal Y having a logic 'low' level may be output. Since the transmission gate **112** illustrated in FIGS. 6A and 6B is an example, the transmission gate **112** included in the multi-bit flip-flop block **100** is not limited thereto.

FIG. 7 is a diagram illustrating another example of the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. 2.

Referring to FIG. 7, the multi-bit flip-flop block **200** may include a single inverter **260**, a first flip-flop **200-1**, and a second flip-flop **200-2**. Here, the first flip-flop **200-1** may latch a first input signal D1 at rising edges of a clock signal CK (i.e., at falling edges of an inverted clock signal ICK) to output the first input signal D1 as a first output signal Q1, and the second flip-flop **200-2** may latch a second input signal D2 at the rising edges of the clock signal CK (i.e., at the falling edges of the inverted clock signal ICK) to output the second input signal D2 as a second output signal Q2. However, since a structure of the multi-bit flip-flop block **200** illustrated in FIG. 7 is an example, a structure of the multi-bit flip-flop block **200** is not limited thereto.

The first flip-flop **200-1** may include a first input tri-state inverter **201-1**, a first logical XOR element **202-1**, a first

21

master latch tri-state inverter **203-1**, a first transmission gate **204-1**, a first slave inverter **205-1**, a first output inverter **206-1**, and a first slave latch-reset tri-state inverter **207-1**. The first input tri-state inverter **201-1** may be coupled to a first signal input terminal through which the first input signal **D1** is input. That is, the first input tri-state inverter **201-1** may be coupled between the first signal input terminal and the first logical XOR element **202-1**. Here, the first input tri-state inverter **201-1** may invert the first input signal **D1** to output a first inverted input signal **ID1** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the first input tri-state inverter **201-1** may separate the first logical XOR element **202-1** from the first signal input terminal when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'low' level. The first logical XOR element **202-1** may be coupled to a reset terminal through which a reset signal **R** is input and an output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter **201-1**. Here, the first logical XOR element **202-1** may output a first operation signal **XD1** by performing a logical XOR operation between the first inverted input signal **ID1** received from the first input tri-state inverter **201-1** and the reset signal **R** input through the reset terminal. Thus, when the reset signal **R** has a logic 'high' level, the first logical XOR element **202-1** may output the first operation signal **XD1** having a logic 'low' level regardless of the first inverted input signal **ID1**. On the other hand, when the reset signal **R** has a logic 'low' level, the first logical XOR element **202-1** may output the first input signal **D1** as the first operation signal **XD1** by inverting the first inverted input signal **ID1**. The first master latch tri-state inverter **203-1** may be coupled between an output terminal of the first logical XOR element **202-1** and an output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter **201-1**. Here, the first master latch tri-state inverter **203-1** may invert the first operation signal **XD1** received from the first logical XOR element **202-1** to output a first inverted operation signal **IXD1** corresponding to the first inverted input signal **ID1** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the first master latch tri-state inverter **203-1** may separate the output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter **201-1** from the output terminal of the first logical XOR element **202-1** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'high' level.

The first transmission gate **204-1** may be coupled to the output terminal of the first logical XOR element **202-1**. That is, the first transmission gate **204-1** may be coupled between the first logical XOR element **202-1** and the first slave inverter **205-1**. The first transmission gate **204-1** may transmit the first operation signal **XD1** received from the first logical XOR element **202-1** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the first transmission gate **204-1** may separate the first slave inverter **205-1** from the first logical XOR element **202-1** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'high' level. The first slave inverter **205-1** may be coupled to an output terminal of the first transmission gate **204-1**. That is, the first slave inverter **205-1** may be coupled between the first transmission gate **204-1** and the first output inverter **206-1**. The first slave inverter **205-1** may invert the first operation signal **XD1** received from the first transmission gate **204-1** to output the first inverted operation signal **IXD1**. The first output inverter **206-1** may be coupled to an output terminal of the first slave inverter **205-1**. That is, the

22

first output inverter **206-1** may be coupled between the first slave inverter **205-1** and a first signal output terminal through which the first output signal **Q1** is output. The first output inverter **206-1** may invert the first inverted operation signal **IXD1** received from the first slave inverter **205-1** to output the first operation signal **XD1** as the first output signal **Q1** through the first signal output terminal. The first slave latch-reset tri-state inverter **207-1** may be coupled between an output terminal of the first slave inverter **205-1** and an output terminal of the first transmission gate **204-1**. Here, the first slave latch-reset tri-state inverter **207-1** may invert the first inverted operation signal **IXD1** received from the first slave inverter **205-1** to output the first operation signal **XD1** when the reset signal **R** has a logic 'low' level, the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level, and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the first slave latch-reset tri-state inverter **207-1** may separate the output terminal of the first transmission gate **204-1** from the output terminal of the first slave inverter **205-1** when the reset signal **R** has a logic 'low' level, the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'high' level, and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'low' level. In addition, the first slave latch-reset tri-state inverter **207-1** may reset the first operation signal **XD1** to have a logic 'low' level when the reset signal **R** has a logic 'high' level. As a result, when the reset signal **R** has a logic 'high' level, the first flip-flop **200-1** may output the first output signal **Q1** having a logic 'low' level.

The second flip-flop **200-2** may include a second input tri-state inverter **201-2**, a second logical XOR element **202-2**, a second master latch tri-state inverter **203-2**, a second transmission gate **204-2**, a second slave inverter **205-2**, a second output inverter **206-2**, and a second slave latch-reset tri-state inverter **207-2**. The second input tri-state inverter **201-2** may be coupled to a second signal input terminal through which the second input signal **D2** is input. That is, the second input tri-state inverter **201-2** may be coupled between the second signal input terminal and the second logical XOR element **202-2**. Here, the second input tri-state inverter **201-2** may invert the second input signal **D2** to output a second inverted input signal **ID2** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the second input tri-state inverter **201-2** may separate the second logical XOR element **202-2** from the second signal input terminal when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'low' level. The second logical XOR element **202-2** may be coupled to the reset terminal through which the reset signal **R** is input and an output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter **201-2**. Here, the second logical XOR element **202-2** may output a second operation signal **XD2** by performing a logical XOR operation between the second inverted input signal **ID2** received from the second input tri-state inverter **201-2** and the reset signal **R** input through the reset terminal. Thus, when the reset signal **R** has a logic 'high' level, the second logical XOR element **202-2** may output the second operation signal **XD2** having a logic 'low' level regardless of the second inverted input signal **ID2**. On the other hand, when the reset signal **R** has a logic 'low' level, the second logical XOR element **202-2** may output the second input signal **D2** as the second operation signal **XD2** by inverting the second inverted input signal **ID2**. The second master latch tri-state inverter **203-2** may be coupled between an output terminal of the second logical XOR element **202-2** and an output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter **201-2**. Here, the second master latch tri-state inverter **203-2** may invert the second operation signal **XD2** received from

23

the second logical XOR element **202-2** to output a second inverted operation signal **IXD2** corresponding to the second inverted input signal **ID2** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the second master latch tri-state inverter **203-2** may separate the output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter **201-2** from the output terminal of the second logical XOR element **202-2** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'high' level.

The second transmission gate **204-2** may be coupled to the output terminal of the second logical XOR element **202-2**. That is, the second transmission gate **204-2** may be coupled between the second logical XOR element **202-2** and the second slave inverter **205-2**. The second transmission gate **204-2** may transmit the second operation signal **XD2** received from the second logical XOR element **202-2** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the second transmission gate **204-2** may separate the second slave inverter **205-2** from the second logical XOR element **202-2** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'high' level. The second slave inverter **205-2** may be coupled to an output terminal of the second transmission gate **204-2**. That is, the second slave inverter **205-2** may be coupled between the second transmission gate **204-2** and the second output inverter **206-2**. The second slave inverter **205-2** may invert the second operation signal **XD2** received from the second transmission gate **204-2** to output the second inverted operation signal **IXD2**. The second output inverter **206-2** may be coupled to an output terminal of the second slave inverter **205-2**. That is, the second output inverter **206-2** may be coupled between the second slave inverter **205-2** and a second signal output terminal through which the second output signal **Q2** is output. The second output inverter **206-2** may invert the second inverted operation signal **IXD2** received from the second slave inverter **205-2** to output the second operation signal **XD2** as the second output signal **Q2** through the second signal output terminal. The second slave latch-reset tri-state inverter **207-2** may be coupled between an output terminal of the second slave inverter **205-2** and an output terminal of the second transmission gate **204-2**. Here, the second slave latch-reset tri-state inverter **207-2** may invert the second inverted operation signal **IXD2** received from the second slave inverter **205-2** to output the second operation signal **XD2** when the reset signal **R** has a logic 'low' level, the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level, and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the second slave latch-reset tri-state inverter **207-2** may separate the output terminal of the second transmission gate **204-2** from the output terminal of the second slave inverter **205-2** when the reset signal **R** has a logic 'low' level, the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'high' level, and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'low' level. In addition, the second slave latch-reset tri-state inverter **207-2** may reset the second operation signal **XD2** to have a logic 'low' level when the reset signal **R** has a logic 'high' level. As a result, when the reset signal **R** has a logic 'high' level, the second flip-flop **200-2** may output the second output signal **Q2** having a logic 'low' level.

Specifically, when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level, the first input tri-state inverter **201-1** of the first flip-flop **200-1** and the second input tri-state inverter **201-2** of the second flip-flop **200-2** may operate, but the first transmission gate **204-1** and the first master latch tri-state inverter **203-1** of the first flip-flop **200-1** and the second

24

transmission gate **204-2** and the second master latch tri-state inverter **203-2** of the second flip-flop **200-2** may not operate. In this situation, when a logic level of the clock signal **CK** is changed from a logic 'low' level to a logic 'high' level (i.e., the rising edges of the clock signal **CK**), the first input tri-state inverter **201-1** of the first flip-flop **200-1** and the second input tri-state inverter **201-2** of the second flip-flop **200-2** may not operate, but the first master latch tri-state inverter **203-1** of the first flip-flop **200-1** and the second master latch tri-state inverter **203-2** of the second flip-flop **200-2** may operate. Thus, the first input signal **D1** applied to the first signal input terminal and the second input signal **D2** applied to the second signal input terminal may be latched. Meanwhile, when the logic level of the clock signal **CK** is changed from a logic 'low' level to a logic 'high' level, the first transmission gate **204-1** of the first flip-flop **200-1** and the second transmission gate **204-2** of the second flip-flop **200-2** may operate. Thus, the latched first input signal **D1** may be output as the first output signal **Q1** via the first transmission gate **204-1**, the first slave inverter **205-1**, and the first output inverter **206-1** of the first flip-flop **200-1**, and the latched second input signal **D2** may be output as the second output signal **Q2** via the second transmission gate **204-2**, the second slave inverter **205-2**, and the second output inverter **206-2** of the second flip-flop **200-2**. Subsequently, when the logic level of the clock signal **CK** is changed from a logic 'high' level to a logic 'low' level (i.e., the falling edges of the clock signal **CK**), the first input tri-state inverter **201-1** of the first flip-flop **200-1** and the second input tri-state inverter **201-2** of the second flip-flop **200-2** may operate, but the first transmission gate **204-1** of the first flip-flop **200-1** and the second transmission gate **204-2** of the second flip-flop **200-2** may not operate. Thus, the first slave inverter **205-1** may be separated (or, blocked) from the first logical XOR element **202-1** in the first flip-flop **200-1**, and the second slave inverter **205-2** may be separated (or, blocked) from the second logical XOR element **202-2** in the second flip-flop **200-2**. Meanwhile, when the logic level of the clock signal **CK** is changed from a logic 'high' level to a logic 'low' level, the first slave latch-reset tri-state inverter **207-1** of the first flip-flop **200-1** and the second slave latch-reset tri-state inverter **207-2** of the second flip-flop **200-2** may operate. Thus, the first flip-flop **200-1** may output the latched first input signal **D1** as the first output signal **Q1** through the first signal output terminal, and the second flip-flop **200-2** may output the latched second input signal **D2** as the second output signal **Q2** through the second signal output terminal until the logic level of the clock signal **CK** is changed from a logic 'low' level to a logic 'high' level (i.e., the rising edges of the clock signal **CK**). However, when the reset signal **R** having a logic 'high' level is applied to the first and second flip-flops **200-1** and **200-2**, the first flip-flop **200-1** may output the first output signal **Q1** having a logic 'low' level, and the second flip-flop **200-2** may output the second output signal **Q2** having a logic 'low' level.

FIG. 8A is a diagram illustrating a slave latch-reset tri-state inverter included in the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. 7. FIG. 8B is a circuit diagram illustrating an example of a slave latch-reset tri-state inverter included in the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. 7.

Referring to FIGS. 8A and 8B, the slave latch-reset tri-state inverter **211** included in the multi-bit flip-flop block **200** may be controlled by a control signal **C**, an inverted control signal **IC** that is generated by inverting the control signal **C**, and a reset signal **R**. Here, the control signal **C** may be an inverted clock signal **ICK** that is generated by invert-

25

ing a clock signal CK applied to the multi-bit flip-flop block **200**, and the inverted control signal IC may be the clock signal CK.

As illustrated in FIG. **8A**, the slave latch-reset tri-state inverter **211** may perform an operation that inverts an input signal A to output an inverted input signal as an output signal Y when the reset signal R has a logic 'low' level, the control signal C has a logic 'high' level, and the inverted control signal IC has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the slave latch-reset tri-state inverter **211** may not perform the operation that inverts the input signal A to output the inverted input signal as the output signal Y when the reset signal R has a logic 'low' level, the control signal C has a logic 'low' level, and the inverted control signal IC has a logic 'high' level. In addition, the slave latch-reset tri-state inverter **211** may reset the output signal Y to have a logic 'low' level when the reset signal R has a logic 'high' level. For this operation, as illustrated in FIG. **8B**, the slave latch-reset tri-state inverter **211** may include a first PMOS transistor PTR1, a second PMOS transistor PTR2, a first NMOS transistor NTR1, a second NMOS transistor NTR2, a reset PMOS transistor RPTR, and a reset NMOS transistor RNTR. The reset PMOS transistor RPTR may be coupled between the first PMOS transistor PTR1 and a first power voltage VDD corresponding to a logic 'high' level. Here, a gate electrode of the reset PMOS transistor RPTR may receive the reset signal R. The reset NMOS transistor RNTR may be coupled between an output node and a second power voltage GND corresponding to a logic 'low' level. For example, the output node may be a node coupled to one electrode of the second PMOS transistor PTR2 and one electrode of the second NMOS transistor NTR2, and thus the output signal Y may be output through the output node. Here, a gate electrode of the reset NMOS transistor RNTR may receive the reset signal R. The first PMOS transistor PTR1 may be coupled between the second PMOS transistor PTR2 and the reset PMOS transistor RPTR. Here, a gate electrode of the first PMOS transistor PTR1 may receive the input signal A. The second PMOS transistor PTR2 may be coupled between the first PMOS transistor PTR1 and the second NMOS transistor NTR2. Here, a gate electrode of the second PMOS transistor PTR2 may receive the inverted control signal IC. The first NMOS transistor NTR1 may be coupled between the second NMOS transistor NTR2 and the second power voltage GND corresponding to a logic 'low' level. Here, a gate electrode of the first NMOS transistor NTR1 may receive the input signal A. The second NMOS transistor NTR2 may be coupled between the first NMOS transistor NTR1 and the second PMOS transistor PTR2. Here, a gate electrode of the second NMOS transistor NTR2 may receive the control signal C. Thus, when the control signal C has a logic 'high' level and the inverted control signal IC has a logic 'low' level, the second NMOS transistor NTR2 and the second PMOS transistor PTR2 may be turned on. Here, when the reset signal R has a logic 'low' level and the input signal A has a logic 'high' level, the reset PMOS transistor RPTR and the first NMOS transistor NTR1 may be turned on, so that the output signal Y having a logic 'low' level may be output. On the other hand, when the reset signal R has a logic 'low' level and the input signal A has a logic 'low' level, the reset PMOS transistor RPTR and the first PMOS transistor PTR1 may be turned on, so that the output signal Y having a logic 'high' level may be output. In addition, when the reset signal R has a logic 'high' level, the reset NMOS transistor RNTR may be turned on, so that the output signal Y may be reset to have a logic 'low' level. Since the slave latch-reset tri-state inverter **211** illustrated in

26

FIGS. **8A** and **8B** is an example, the slave latch-reset tri-state inverter **211** included in the multi-bit flip-flop block **200** is not limited thereto.

FIG. **9** is a diagram illustrating still another example of the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. **2**.

Referring to FIG. **9**, the multi-bit flip-flop block **300** may include a single inverter **360**, a first flip-flop **300-1**, and a second flip-flop **300-2**. Here, the first flip-flop **300-1** may latch a first input signal D1 at rising edges of a clock signal CK (i.e., at falling edges of an inverted clock signal ICK) to output the first input signal D1 as a first output signal Q1, and the second flip-flop **300-2** may latch a second input signal D2 at the rising edges of the clock signal CK (i.e., at the falling edges of the inverted clock signal ICK) to output the second input signal D2 as a second output signal Q2. However, since a structure of the multi-bit flip-flop block **300** illustrated in FIG. **9** is an example, a structure of the multi-bit flip-flop block **300** is not limited thereto.

The first flip-flop **300-1** may include a first input tri-state inverter **301-1**, a first logical NAND element **302-1**, a first master latch tri-state inverter **303-1**, a first transmission gate **304-1**, a first slave inverter **305-1**, a first output inverter **306-1**, and a first slave latch-set tri-state inverter **307-1**. The first input tri-state inverter **301-1** may be coupled to a first signal input terminal through which the first input signal D1 is input. That is, the first input tri-state inverter **301-1** may be coupled between the first signal input terminal and the first logical NAND element **302-1**. Here, the first input tri-state inverter **301-1** may invert the first input signal D1 to output a first inverted input signal ID1 when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the first input tri-state inverter **301-1** may separate the first logical NAND element **302-1** from the first signal input terminal when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. The first logical NAND element **302-1** may be coupled to a set terminal through which an inverted set signal nS is input and an output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter **301-1**. Here, the inverted set signal nS may be generated by inverting a set signal. Although it is illustrated in FIG. **9** that the inverted set signal nS is input through the set terminal, in some example embodiments, the set signal may be input through the set terminal. In this case, the inverted set signal nS may be generated by inverting the set signal using a specific inverter. The first logical NAND element **302-1** may output a first operation signal ND1 by performing a logical NAND operation between the first inverted input signal ID1 received from the first input tri-state inverter **301-1** and the inverted set signal nS input through the set terminal. Thus, when the inverted set signal nS has a logic 'low' level (i.e., when the set signal has a logic 'high' level), the first logical NAND element **302-1** may output the first operation signal ND1 having a logic 'high' level regardless of the first inverted input signal ID1. On the other hand, when the inverted set signal nS has a logic 'high' level (i.e., when the set signal has a logic 'low' level), the first logical NAND element **302-1** may output the first input signal D1 as the first operation signal ND1 by inverting the first inverted input signal ID1. The first master latch tri-state inverter **303-1** may be coupled between an output terminal of the first logical NAND element **302-1** and an output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter **301-1**. Here, the first master latch tri-state inverter **303-1** may invert the first operation signal ND1 received from the first logical NAND element **302-1** to output a first inverted operation signal IND1 corresponding to the first inverted input signal ID1 when the clock signal

CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the first master latch tri-state inverter **303-1** may separate the output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter **301-1** from the output terminal of the first logical NAND element **302-1** when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level.

The first transmission gate **304-1** may be coupled to the output terminal of the first logical NAND element **302-1**. That is, the first transmission gate **304-1** may be coupled between the first logical NAND element **302-1** and the first slave inverter **305-1**. The first transmission gate **304-1** may transmit the first operation signal ND1 received from the first logical NAND element **302-1** when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the first transmission gate **304-1** may separate the first slave inverter **305-1** from the first logical NAND element **302-1** when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level. The first slave inverter **305-1** may be coupled to an output terminal of the first transmission gate **304-1**. That is, the first slave inverter **305-1** may be coupled between the first transmission gate **304-1** and the first output inverter **306-1**. The first slave inverter **305-1** may invert the first operation signal ND1 received from the first transmission gate **304-1** to output the first inverted operation signal IND1. The first output inverter **306-1** may be coupled to an output terminal of the first slave inverter **305-1**. That is, the first output inverter **306-1** may be coupled between the first slave inverter **305-1** and a first signal output terminal through which the first output signal Q1 is output. The first output inverter **306-1** may invert the first inverted operation signal IND1 received from the first slave inverter **305-1** to output the first operation signal ND1 as the first output signal Q1 through the first signal output terminal. The first slave latch-set tri-state inverter **307-1** may be coupled between an output terminal of the first slave inverter **305-1** and an output terminal of the first transmission gate **304-1**. Here, the first slave latch-set tri-state inverter **307-1** may invert the first inverted operation signal IND1 received from the first slave inverter **305-1** to output the first operation signal ND1 when the inverted set signal nS has a logic 'high' level, the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level, and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the first slave latch-set tri-state inverter **307-1** may separate the output terminal of the first transmission gate **304-1** from the output terminal of the first slave inverter **305-1** when the inverted set signal nS has a logic 'high' level, the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level, and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. In addition, the first slave latch-set tri-state inverter **307-1** may set the first operation signal ND1 to have a logic 'high' level when the inverted set signal nS has a logic 'low' level. As a result, when the inverted set signal nS has a logic 'low' level (i.e., when the set signal has a logic 'high' level), the first flip-flop **300-1** may output the first output signal Q1 having a logic 'high' level.

The second flip-flop **300-2** may include a second input tri-state inverter **301-2**, a second logical NAND element **302-2**, a second master latch tri-state inverter **303-2**, a second transmission gate **304-2**, a second slave inverter **305-2**, a second output inverter **306-2**, and a second slave latch-set tri-state inverter **307-2**. The second input tri-state inverter **301-2** may be coupled to a second signal input terminal through which the second input signal D2 is input. That is, the second input tri-state inverter **301-2** may be coupled between the second signal input terminal and the

second logical NAND element **302-2**. Here, the second input tri-state inverter **301-2** may invert the second input signal D2 to output a second inverted input signal ID2 when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the second input tri-state inverter **301-2** may separate the second logical NAND element **302-2** from the second signal input terminal when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. The second logical NAND element **302-2** may be coupled to the set terminal through which the inverted set signal nS is input and an output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter **301-2**. The second logical NAND element **302-2** may output a second operation signal ND2 by performing a logical NAND operation between the second inverted input signal ID2 received from the second input tri-state inverter **301-2** and the inverted set signal nS input through the set terminal. Thus, when the inverted set signal nS has a logic 'low' level (i.e., when the set signal has a logic 'high' level), the second logical NAND element **302-2** may output the second operation signal ND2 having a logic 'high' level regardless of the second inverted input signal ID2. On the other hand, when the inverted set signal nS has a logic 'high' level (i.e., when the set signal has a logic 'low' level), the second logical NAND element **302-2** may output the second input signal D2 as the second operation signal ND2 by inverting the second inverted input signal ID2. The second master latch tri-state inverter **303-2** may be coupled between an output terminal of the second logical NAND element **302-2** and an output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter **301-2**. Here, the second master latch tri-state inverter **303-2** may invert the second operation signal ND2 received from the second logical NAND element **302-2** to output a second inverted operation signal IND2 corresponding to the second inverted input signal ID2 when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the second master latch tri-state inverter **303-2** may separate the output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter **301-2** from the output terminal of the second logical NAND element **302-2** when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level.

The second transmission gate **304-2** may be coupled to the output terminal of the second logical NAND element **302-2**. That is, the second transmission gate **304-2** may be coupled between the second logical NAND element **302-2** and the second slave inverter **305-2**. The second transmission gate **304-2** may transmit the second operation signal ND2 received from the second logical NAND element **302-2** when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the second transmission gate **304-2** may separate the second slave inverter **305-2** from the second logical NAND element **302-2** when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level. The second slave inverter **305-2** may be coupled to an output terminal of the second transmission gate **304-2**. That is, the second slave inverter **305-2** may be coupled between the second transmission gate **304-2** and the second output inverter **306-2**. The second slave inverter **305-2** may invert the second operation signal ND2 received from the second transmission gate **304-2** to output the second inverted operation signal IND2. The second output inverter **306-2** may be coupled to an output terminal of the second slave inverter **305-2**. That is, the second output inverter **306-2** may be coupled between the second slave inverter

29

305-2 and a second signal output terminal through which the second output signal Q2 is output. The second output inverter 306-2 may invert the second inverted operation signal IND2 received from the second slave inverter 305-2 to output the second operation signal ND2 as the second output signal Q2 through the second signal output terminal. The second slave latch-set tri-state inverter 307-2 may be coupled between an output terminal of the second slave inverter 305-2 and an output terminal of the second transmission gate 304-2. Here, the second slave latch-set tri-state inverter 307-2 may invert the second inverted operation signal IND2 received from the second slave inverter 305-2 to output the second operation signal ND2 when the inverted set signal nS has a logic 'high' level, the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level, and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the second slave latch-set tri-state inverter 307-2 may separate the output terminal of the second transmission gate 304-2 from the output terminal of the second slave inverter 305-2 when the inverted set signal nS has a logic 'high' level, the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level, and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. In addition, the second slave latch-set tri-state inverter 307-2 may set the second operation signal ND2 to have a logic 'high' level when the inverted set signal nS has a logic 'low' level. As a result, when the inverted set signal nS has a logic 'low' level (i.e., when the set signal has a logic 'high' level), the second flip-flop 300-2 may output the second output signal Q2 having a logic 'high' level.

Specifically, when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level, the first input tri-state inverter 301-1 of the first flip-flop 300-1 and the second input tri-state inverter 301-2 of the second flip-flop 300-2 may operate, but the first transmission gate 304-1 and the first master latch tri-state inverter 303-1 of the first flip-flop 300-1 and the second transmission gate 304-2 and the second master latch tri-state inverter 303-2 of the second flip-flop 300-2 may not operate. In this situation, when a logic level of the clock signal CK is changed from a logic 'low' level to a logic 'high' level (i.e., the rising edges of the clock signal CK), the first input tri-state inverter 301-1 of the first flip-flop 300-1 and the second input tri-state inverter 301-2 of the second flip-flop 300-2 may not operate, but the first master latch tri-state inverter 303-1 of the first flip-flop 300-1 and the second master latch tri-state inverter 303-2 of the second flip-flop 300-2 may operate. Thus, the first input signal D1 applied to the first signal input terminal and the second input signal D2 applied to the second signal input terminal may be latched. Meanwhile, when the logic level of the clock signal CK is changed from a logic 'low' level to a logic 'high' level, the first transmission gate 304-1 of the first flip-flop 300-1 and the second transmission gate 304-2 of the second flip-flop 300-2 may operate. Thus, the latched first input signal D1 may be output as the first output signal Q1 via the first transmission gate 304-1, the first slave inverter 305-1, and the first output inverter 306-1 of the first flip-flop 300-1, and the latched second input signal D2 may be output as the second output signal Q2 via the second transmission gate 304-2, the second slave inverter 305-2, and the second output inverter 306-2 of the second flip-flop 300-2. Subsequently, when the logic level of the clock signal CK is changed from a logic 'high' level to a logic 'low' level (i.e., the falling edges of the clock signal CK), the first input tri-state inverter 301-1 of the first flip-flop 300-1 and the second input tri-state inverter 301-2 of the second flip-flop 300-2 may operate, but the first transmission gate 304-1 of the first flip-flop 300-1 and the second transmission gate

30

304-2 of the second flip-flop 300-2 may not operate. Thus, the first slave inverter 305-1 may be separated (or, blocked) from the first logical NAND element 302-1 in the first flip-flop 300-1, and the second slave inverter 305-2 may be separated (or, blocked) from the second logical NAND element 302-2 in the second flip-flop 300-2. Meanwhile, when the logic level of the clock signal CK is changed from a logic 'high' level to a logic 'low' level, the first slave latch-set tri-state inverter 307-1 of the first flip-flop 300-1 and the second slave latch-set tri-state inverter 307-2 of the second flip-flop 300-2 may operate. Thus, the first flip-flop 300-1 may output the latched first input signal D1 as the first output signal Q1 through the first signal output terminal, and the second flip-flop 300-2 may output the latched second input signal D2 as the second output signal Q2 through the second signal output terminal until the logic level of the clock signal CK is changed from a logic 'low' level to a logic 'high' level (i.e., the rising edges of the clock signal CK). However, when the inverted set signal nS having a logic 'low' level is applied to the first and second flip-flops 300-1 and 300-2, the first flip-flop 300-1 may output the first output signal Q1 having a logic 'high' level, and the second flip-flop 300-2 may output the second output signal Q2 having a logic 'high' level.

FIG. 10A is a diagram illustrating a slave latch-set tri-state inverter included in the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. 9. FIG. 10B is a circuit diagram illustrating an example of a slave latch-set tri-state inverter included in the multi-bit flip-flop block of FIG. 9.

Referring to FIGS. 10A and 10B, the slave latch-set tri-state inverter 311 included in the multi-bit flip-flop block 300 may be controlled by a control signal C, an inverted control signal IC that is generated by inverting the control signal C, and an inverted set signal nS. Here, the control signal C may be an inverted clock signal ICK that is generated by inverting a clock signal CK applied to the multi-bit flip-flop block 300, and the inverted control signal IC may be the clock signal CK.

As illustrated in FIG. 10A, the slave latch-set tri-state inverter 311 may perform an operation that inverts an input signal A to output an inverted input signal as an output signal Y when the inverted set signal nS has a logic 'high' level, the control signal C has a logic 'high' level, and the inverted control signal IC has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the slave latch-set tri-state inverter 311 may not perform the operation that inverts the input signal A to output the inverted input signal as the output signal Y when the inverted set signal nS has a logic 'high' level, the control signal C has a logic 'low' level, and the inverted control signal IC has a logic 'high' level. In addition, the slave latch-set tri-state inverter 311 may set the output signal Y to have a logic 'high' level when the inverted set signal nS has a logic 'low' level. For this operation, as illustrated in FIG. 10B, the slave latch-set tri-state inverter 311 may include a first PMOS transistor PTR1, a second PMOS transistor PTR2, a first NMOS transistor NTR1, a second NMOS transistor NTR2, a set PMOS transistor SPTR, and a set NMOS transistor SNTR. The set PMOS transistor SPTR may be coupled between an output node and a first power voltage VDD corresponding to a logic 'high' level. For example, the output node may be a node coupled to one electrode of the second PMOS transistor PTR2 and one electrode of the second NMOS transistor NTR2, and thus the output signal Y may be output through the output node. Here, a gate electrode of the set PMOS transistor SPTR may receive the inverted set signal nS. The set NMOS transistor SNTR may be coupled between the first NMOS transistor

31

NTR1 and a second power voltage GND corresponding to a logic 'low' level. Here, a gate electrode of the set NMOS transistor SNTR may receive the inverted set signal nS. The first PMOS transistor PTR1 may be coupled between the second PMOS transistor PTR2 and the first power voltage VDD corresponding to a logic 'high' level. Here, a gate electrode of the first PMOS transistor PTR1 may receive the input signal A. The second PMOS transistor PTR2 may be coupled between the first PMOS transistor PTR1 and the second NMOS transistor NTR2. Here, a gate electrode of the second PMOS transistor PTR2 may receive the inverted control signal IC. The first NMOS transistor NTR1 may be coupled between the second NMOS transistor NTR2 and the set NMOS transistor SNTR. Here, a gate electrode of the first NMOS transistor NTR1 may receive the input signal A. The second NMOS transistor NTR2 may be coupled between the first NMOS transistor NTR1 and the second PMOS transistor PTR2. Here, a gate electrode of the second NMOS transistor NTR2 may receive the control signal C. Thus, when the control signal C has a logic 'high' level and the inverted control signal IC has a logic 'low' level, the second NMOS transistor NTR2 and the second PMOS transistor PTR2 may be turned on. Here, when the inverted set signal nS has a logic 'high' level and the input signal A has a logic 'high' level, the set NMOS transistor SNTR and the first NMOS transistor NTR1 may be turned on, so that the output signal Y having a logic 'low' level may be output. On the other hand, when the inverted set signal nS has a logic 'high' level and the input signal A has a logic 'low' level, the set NMOS transistor SNTR and the first PMOS transistor PTR1 may be turned on, so that the output signal Y having a logic 'high' level may be output. In addition, when the inverted set signal nS has a logic 'low' level, the set PMOS transistor SPTR may be turned on, so that the output signal Y may be set to have a logic 'high' level. Since the slave latch-set tri-state inverter 311 illustrated in FIGS. 10A and 10B is an example, the slave latch-set tri-state inverter 311 included in the multi-bit flip-flop block 300 is not limited thereto.

FIG. 11 is a block diagram illustrating an integrated circuit including a scan chain circuit according to example embodiments. FIG. 12 is a block diagram for describing an operation of a flip-flop included in the scan chain circuit of the integrated circuit of FIG. 11. FIG. 13 is a timing diagram for describing an operation of a flip-flop included in the scan chain circuit of the integrated circuit of FIG. 11.

Referring to FIGS. 11 through 13, the integrated circuit 400 may include a combinational logic circuit 410 and a scan chain circuit 430. Here, the combinational logic circuit 410 may include a plurality of flip-flops 435, and the flip-flops 435 may form a scan path by being coupled to the combinational logic circuit 410. Although it is illustrated in FIG. 11 that all combinational logic circuits 410 are coupled to the scan chain circuit 430 in the integrated circuit 400, some combinational logic circuits 410 for which a scan test is not performed may not be coupled to the scan chain circuit 430 in the integrated circuit 400. In some example embodiments, the integrated circuit 400 may be implemented as a system on-chip (SOC).

The combinational logic circuit 410 may include logic cones, multiplexers, etc. Here, the combinational logic circuit 410 may be coupled to the scan chain circuit 430 in order that a scan test is performed for the combinational logic circuit 410. Generally, a scan test may be performed for the integrated circuit 400 by performing a shift-in operation that sequentially loads a test pattern SI on the scan chain circuit 430 (i.e., indicated as SHIFT-IN), by perform-

32

ing a capture operation that stores an observation value SO of the combinational logic circuit 410 in the scan chain circuit 430 (i.e., indicated as CAPTURE), where the observation value SO is generated based on the test pattern SI loaded on the scan chain circuit 430, and by performing a shift-out operation that sequentially outputs the observation value SO stored in the scan chain circuit 430 (i.e., indicated as SHIFT-OUT). To this end, the scan chain circuit 430 may include a plurality of multi-bit flip-flop blocks that share a clock signal CK, and each of the multi-bit flip-flop blocks may include a plurality of flip-flops 435 and a single inverter that provides the clock signal CK and an inverted clock signal for driving (or, operating) the flip-flops 435, where the inverted clock signal is generated by inverting the clock signal CK. Here, the flip-flops 435 included in the scan chain circuit 430 may be triggered at rising edges of the clock signal CK (i.e., at falling edges of the inverted clock signal). In an example embodiment, each of the flip-flops 435 included in the scan chain circuit 430 may include a multiplexer part 436, a master latch part 437, and a slave latch part 438. In this case, the flip-flops 435 included in the scan chain circuit 430 may have the same structure. For example, as illustrated in FIGS. 12 and 13, when a scan enable signal SE has a logic 'high' level, the flip-flop 435 may output a scan test signal SI as an output signal Q via the master latch part 437 and the slave latch part 438. On the other hand, when the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'low' level, the flip-flop 435 may output an input signal D (i.e., input data) as the output signal Q via the master latch part 437 and the slave latch part 438. Thus, each of the flip-flops 435 may selectively operate in a normal operation mode or in a scan test mode based on the scan enable signal SE applied to each of the flip-flops 435. In another example embodiment, each of first flip-flops of the flip-flops 435 included in the scan chain circuit 430 may include the multiplexer part 436, the master latch part 437, and the slave latch part 438, and each of second flip-flops of the flip-flops 435 included in the scan chain circuit 430 may include the multiplexer part 436, the master latch part 437, and the slave latch part 438. In this case, a structure of each of the first flip-flops may be different from a structure of each of the second flip-flops. In still another example embodiment, each of first flip-flops of the flip-flops 435 included in the scan chain circuit 430 may include the multiplexer part 436, the master latch part 437, and the slave latch part 438, and each of second flip-flops of the flip-flops 435 included in the scan chain circuit 430 may include the master latch part 437 and the slave latch part 438. In this case, a structure of each of the first flip-flops may be different from a structure of each of the second flip-flops. The above example embodiments will be described in detail with reference to FIGS. 14 through 19.

As illustrated in FIGS. 11 through 13, while the scan enable signal SE applied to the integrated circuit 400 has a logic 'high' level, the shift-in operation that sequentially applying a specific test pattern SI (i.e., scan test signals) to the scan chain circuit 430 through a scan test input terminal SIP of the integrated circuit 400 may be performed (i.e., indicated as SHIFT-IN). Next, the capture operation that stores the observation value SO of the combinational logic circuit 410 in the scan chain circuit 430 may be performed (i.e., indicated as CAPTURE), where the observation value SO is generated based on the test pattern SI loaded on the scan chain circuit 430. Here, the scan enable signal SE applied to the integrated circuit 400 may have a logic 'low' level. Subsequently, while the scan enable signal SE applied to the integrated circuit 400 has a logic 'high' level again, the shift-out operation that sequentially outputs the observation

value SO stored in the scan chain circuit 430 through a scan test output terminal SOP of the integrated circuit 400 may be performed (i.e., indicated as SHIFT-OUT). As described above, the flip-flops 435 included in the scan chain circuit 430 may operate based on the clock signal CK (i.e., may be triggered at the rising edges of the clock signal CK). In some example embodiments, a plurality of test patterns SI may be used for the scan test. In this case, the shift-out operation that outputs the observation value SO generated based on a test pattern SI may be concurrently performed with the shift-in operation that inputs a next test pattern SI. Although it is illustrated in FIG. 11 that a specific test pattern SI is sequentially applied through the scan test input terminal SIP, and then the observation value SO stored in the scan chain circuit 430 is sequentially output through the scan test output terminal SOP, a way of performing the scan test for the integrated circuit 400 is not limited thereto. For example, a specific test pattern SI may be sequentially applied through one of main input terminals PI of the combinational logic circuit 410, and then the observation value SO stored in the scan chain circuit 430 may be sequentially output through one of main output terminals PO of the combinational logic circuit 410. In this case, the integrated circuit 400 may further include a multiplexer by which one of the main input terminals PI is used as the scan test input terminal SIP while the scan test is performed, a multiplexer by which one of the main output terminals PO is used as the scan test output terminal SOP while the scan test is performed, etc. However, the scan test input terminal SIP and the scan test output terminal SOP of the integrated circuit 400 may be determined in various ways.

FIG. 14 is a block diagram illustrating an example of a multi-bit flip-flop block included in the scan chain circuit of the integrated circuit of FIG. 11.

Referring to FIG. 14, the scan chain circuit 430 may include a plurality of multi-bit flip-flop blocks 500. Here, each of the multi-bit flip-flop blocks 500 may include a single inverter 560 and a plurality of flip-flops 500-1 through 500-n. In FIG. 14, only one multi-bit flip-flop block 500 is illustrated. The flip-flops 500-1 through 500-n may be triggered at rising edges of a clock signal CK. For convenience of description, it is illustrated in FIG. 14 that the multi-bit flip-flop block 500 includes the single inverter 560, the first flip-flop 500-1, and the second flip-flop 500-2. As illustrated in FIG. 14, each of the first and second flip-flops 500-1 and 500-2 may be coupled to the single inverter 560, and thus each of the first and second flip-flops 500-1 and 500-2 may receive the clock signal CK and an inverted clock signal ICK that is generated by inverting the clock signal CK. Here, when a scan enable signal SE has a logic 'low' level, the first flip-flop 500-1 may output a first input signal D1 latched at rising edges of the clock signal CK (i.e., at falling edges of the inverted clock signal ICK) as a first output signal Q1, and the second flip-flop 500-2 may output a second input signal D2 latched at the rising edges of the clock signal CK (i.e., at the falling edges of the inverted clock signal ICK) as a second output signal Q2. On the other hand, when the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'high' level, the first flip-flop 500-1 may output a first scan test signal SI1 latched at the rising edges of the clock signal CK (i.e., at the falling edges of the inverted clock signal ICK) as the first output signal Q1, and the second flip-flop 500-2 may output a second scan test signal SI2 latched at the rising edges of the clock signal CK (i.e., at the falling edges of the inverted clock signal ICK) as the second output signal Q2.

The first flip-flop 500-1 may include a first master latch part 520-1, a first slave latch part 540-1, and a first multi-

plexer part 580-1. The first flip-flop 500-1 may operate the first master latch part 520-1 and the first slave latch part 540-1 based on the clock signal CK and the inverted clock signal ICK. As illustrated in FIG. 14, the first master latch part 520-1 and the first slave latch part 540-1 may receive the clock signal CK and the inverted clock signal ICK. In addition, the first master latch part 520-1 and the first slave latch part 540-1 may be controlled by the clock signal CK and the inverted clock signal ICK. Specifically, when the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'low' level (i.e., a normal operation mode), the first master latch part 520-1 may latch the first input signal D1 at the rising edges of the clock signal CK (i.e., at the falling edges of the inverted clock signal ICK) to transmit a transmission signal corresponding to the first input signal D1 to the first slave latch part 540-1, and the first slave latch part 540-1 may latch the transmission signal transmitted from the first master latch part 520-1 to output the first output signal Q1 based on the latched transmission signal. In addition, when the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'high' level (i.e., a scan test mode), the first master latch part 520-1 may latch the first scan test signal SI1 at the rising edges of the clock signal CK (i.e., at the falling edges of the inverted clock signal ICK) to transmit a transmission signal corresponding to the first scan test signal SI1 to the first slave latch part 540-1, and the first slave latch part 540-1 may latch the transmission signal transmitted from the first master latch part 520-1 to output the first output signal Q1 based on the latched transmission signal. In other words, the first flip-flop 500-1 may be triggered at the rising edges of the clock signal CK. In an example embodiment, the first flip-flop 500-1 may include a reset function that resets the first output signal Q1 to have a first logic level (e.g., a logic 'low' level). In another example embodiment, the first flip-flop 500-1 may include a set function that sets the first output signal Q1 to have a second logic level (e.g., a logic 'high' level). In still another example embodiment, the first flip-flop 500-1 may include the reset function that resets the first output signal Q1 to have the first logic level and the set function that sets the first output signal Q1 to have the second logic level. In some example embodiments, the first flip-flop 500-1 may include other functions. For example, the first flip-flop 500-1 may include a retention function that retains (or, maintains) data.

The second flip-flop 500-2 may include a second master latch part 520-2, a second slave latch part 540-2, and a second multiplexer part 580-2. The second flip-flop 500-2 may operate the second master latch part 520-2 and the second slave latch part 540-2 based on the clock signal CK and the inverted clock signal ICK. As illustrated in FIG. 14, the second master latch part 520-2 and the second slave latch part 540-2 may receive the clock signal CK and the inverted clock signal ICK. In addition, the second master latch part 520-2 and the second slave latch part 540-2 may be controlled by the clock signal CK and the inverted clock signal ICK. Specifically, when the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'low' level (i.e., the normal operation mode), the second master latch part 520-2 may latch the second input signal D2 at the rising edges of the clock signal CK (i.e., at the falling edges of the inverted clock signal ICK) to transmit a transmission signal corresponding to the second input signal D2 to the second slave latch part 540-2, and the second slave latch part 540-2 may latch the transmission signal transmitted from the second master latch part 520-2 to output the second output signal Q2 based on the latched transmission signal. In addition, when the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'high' level (i.e., the scan test mode), the second master latch part 520-2 may latch the second scan test signal SI2 at

35

the rising edges of the clock signal CK (i.e., at the falling edges of the inverted clock signal ICK) to transmit a transmission signal corresponding to the second scan test signal SI2 to the second slave latch part 540-2, and the second slave latch part 540-2 may latch the transmission signal transmitted from the second master latch part 520-2 to output the second output signal Q2 based on the latched transmission signal. In other words, the second flip-flop 500-2 may be triggered at the rising edges of the clock signal CK. In an example embodiment, the second flip-flop 500-2 may include a reset function that resets the second output signal Q2 to have a first logic level (e.g., a logic 'low' level). In another example embodiment, the second flip-flop 500-2 may include a set function that sets the second output signal Q2 to have a second logic level (e.g., a logic 'high' level). In still another example embodiment, the second flip-flop 500-2 may include the reset function that resets the second output signal Q2 to have the second logic level and the set function that sets the second output signal Q2 to have the second logic level. In some example embodiments, the second flip-flop 500-2 may include other functions. For example, the second flip-flop 500-2 may include a retention function that retains (or, maintains) data.

The single inverter 560 may invert the clock signal CK to generate the inverted clock signal ICK and may provide the clock signal CK and the inverted clock signal ICK to the first flip-flop 500-1 and the second flip-flop 500-2. Since the multi-bit flip-flop block 500 has a structure including only the single inverter 560, the scan chain circuit 430 may reduce power consumption compared to a conventional scan chain circuit that has a structure including a plurality of inverters, where the power consumption occurs in a clock path including the inverters as the inverters operate whenever the clock signal CK transmitted through the clock path is changed from a logic 'low' level to a logic 'high' level or from a logic 'high' level to a logic 'low' level (i.e., toggled). In brief, the scan chain circuit 430 may minimize (or, reduce) power consumption occurring in a clock path through which the clock signal CK is transmitted (or, transferred) by including the multi-bit flip-flop blocks 500 each including the single inverter 560 that inverts the clock signal CK to generate the inverted clock signal ICK and the flip-flops 500-1 through 500-n that are triggered at the rising edges of the clock signal CK, where each of the flip-flops 500-1 through 500-n includes the master latch part 520-1 through 520-n, the slave latch part 540-1 through 540-n, and the multiplexer part 580-1 through 580-n, and by controlling the multi-bit flip-flop blocks 500 to share the clock signal CK. As a result, the scan chain circuit 430 may operate at low power, so that the scan chain circuit 430 may be applied to low power and high performance chips for low power and high performance mobile devices. In addition, since the multi-bit flip-flop block 500 of the scan chain circuit 430 includes the flip-flops 500-1 through 500-n and the single inverter 560 that provides the clock signal CK and the inverted clock signal ICK for controlling the flip-flops 500-1 through 500-n, the multi-bit flip-flop block 500 of the scan chain circuit 430 may trigger the flip-flops 500-1 through 500-n based on the clock signal CK and the inverted clock signal ICK. Thus, the scan chain circuit 430 may facilitate a scan test to be efficiently performed for an integrated circuit including the scan chain circuit 430.

FIG. 15 is a circuit diagram illustrating an example of a multi-bit flip-flop block included in the scan chain circuit of the integrated circuit of FIG. 11.

Referring to FIG. 15, the scan chain circuit 430 may include a plurality of multi-bit flip-flop blocks 500. Here,

36

each of the multi-bit flip-flop blocks 500 may include a single inverter 560, a first flip-flop 500-1, and a second flip-flop 500-2. For convenience of description, only one multi-bit flip-flop block 500 is illustrated in FIG. 15. Here, the first flip-flop 500-1 may latch a first input signal DI or a first scan test signal SI1 at rising edges of a clock signal CK (i.e., at falling edges of an inverted clock signal ICK) to output the first input signal DI or the first scan test signal SI1 as a first output signal Q1, and the second flip-flop 500-2 may latch a second input signal D2 or a second scan test signal SI2 at the rising edges of the clock signal CK (i.e., at the falling edges of the inverted clock signal ICK) to output the second input signal D2 or the second scan test signal SI2 as a second output signal Q2. However, since a structure of the multi-bit flip-flop block 500 illustrated in FIG. 15 is an example, a structure of the multi-bit flip-flop block 500 is not limited thereto. Meanwhile, since an operation (or, interaction) between the master latch part and the slave latch part in the flip-flops 500-1 through 500-n is described above, duplicated description will not be repeated.

The first flip-flop 500-1 may include a selection inverter 510, a first input tri-state inverter 501-1, a first scan tri-state inverter 509-1, a first multiplexing transmission gate 508-1, a first master inverter 502-1, a first master latch tri-state inverter 503-1, a first transmission gate 504-1, a first slave inverter 505-1, a first output inverter 506-1, and a first slave latch tri-state inverter 507-1. The selection inverter 510 may be coupled to a scan enable signal input terminal through which the scan enable signal SE is input. The selection inverter 510 may invert the scan enable signal SE to output an inverted scan enable signal ISE. The first input tri-state inverter 501-1 may be coupled to a first signal input terminal through which the first input signal DI is input. That is, the first input tri-state inverter 501-1 may be coupled between the first signal input terminal and the first multiplexing transmission gate 508-1. Here, the first input tri-state inverter 501-1 may invert the first input signal DI to output a first inverted input signal ID1 when the inverted scan enable signal ISE has a logic 'high' level and the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the first input tri-state inverter 501-1 may separate the first multiplexing transmission gate 508-1 from the first signal input terminal when the inverted scan enable signal ISE has a logic 'low' level and the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'high' level. The first scan tri-state inverter 509-1 may be coupled to the first scan input terminal through which the first scan test signal SI1 is input. That is, the first scan tri-state inverter 509-1 may be coupled between the first scan input terminal and the first multiplexing transmission gate 508-1. Here, the first scan tri-state inverter 509-1 may invert the first scan test signal SI1 to output the first inverted scan test signal ISI1 when the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'high' level and the inverted scan enable signal ISE has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the first scan tri-state inverter 509-1 may separate the first multiplexing transmission gate 508-1 from the first scan input terminal when the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'low' level and the inverted scan enable signal ISE has a logic 'high' level. The first multiplexing transmission gate 508-1 may be coupled to an output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter 501-1 and an output terminal of the first scan tri-state inverter 509-1. The first multiplexing transmission gate 508-1 may transmit the first inverted input signal ID1 or the first inverted scan test signal ISI1 as a first multiplexing signal MS1 when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the first multiplexing transmission gate 508-1 may separate

37

the first master inverter **502-1** from the first input tri-state inverter **501-1** and the first scan tri-state inverter **509-1** when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. The first master inverter **502-1** may be coupled to an output terminal of the first multiplexing transmission gate **508-1**. That is, the first master inverter **502-1** may be coupled between the first multiplexing transmission gate **508-1** and the first transmission gate **504-1**. Here, the first master inverter **502-1** may invert the first multiplexing signal MS1 received from the first multiplexing transmission gate **508-1** to output a first inverted multiplexing signal IMS1. The first master latch tri-state inverter **503-1** may be coupled between an output terminal of the first master inverter **502-1** and an output terminal of the first multiplexing transmission gate **508-1**. Here, the first master latch tri-state inverter **503-1** may invert the first inverted multiplexing signal IMS1 received from the first master inverter **502-1** to output the first multiplexing signal MS1 when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the first master latch tri-state inverter **503-1** may separate the output terminal of the first multiplexing transmission gate **508-1** from the output terminal of the first master inverter **502-1** when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level.

The first transmission gate **504-1** may be coupled to the output terminal of the first master inverter **502-1**. That is, the first transmission gate **504-1** may be coupled between the first master inverter **502-1** and the first slave inverter **505-1**. The first transmission gate **504-1** may transmit the first inverted multiplexing signal IMS1 received from the first master inverter **502-1** when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the first transmission gate **504-1** may separate the first slave inverter **505-1** from the first master inverter **502-1** when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level. The first slave inverter **505-1** may be coupled to an output terminal of the first transmission gate **504-1**. That is, the first slave inverter **505-1** may be coupled between the first transmission gate **504-1** and the first output inverter **506-1**. The first slave inverter **505-1** may invert the first inverted multiplexing signal IMS1 received from the first transmission gate **504-1** to output the first multiplexing signal MS1. The first output inverter **506-1** may be coupled to an output terminal of the first slave inverter **505-1**. That is, the first output inverter **506-1** may be coupled between the first slave inverter **505-1** and a first signal output terminal through which the first output signal Q1 is output. The first output inverter **506-1** may invert the first multiplexing signal MS1 received from the first slave inverter **505-1** to output the first inverted multiplexing signal IMS1 as the first output signal Q1 through the first signal output terminal. The first slave latch tri-state inverter **507-1** may be coupled between an output terminal of the first slave inverter **505-1** and an output terminal of the first transmission gate **504-1**. Here, the first slave latch tri-state inverter **507-1** may invert the first multiplexing signal MS1 received from the first slave inverter **505-1** to output the first inverted multiplexing signal IMS1 when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the first slave latch tri-state inverter **507-1** may separate the output terminal of the first transmission gate **504-1** from the output terminal of the first slave inverter **505-1** when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level.

38

The second flip-flop **500-2** may include a second input tri-state inverter **501-2**, a second scan tri-state inverter **509-2**, a second multiplexing transmission gate **508-2**, a second master inverter **502-2**, a second master latch tri-state inverter **503-2**, a second transmission gate **504-2**, a second slave inverter **505-2**, a second output inverter **506-2**, and a second slave latch tri-state inverter **507-2**. The second input tri-state inverter **501-2** may be coupled to a second signal input terminal through which the second input signal D2 is input. That is, the second input tri-state inverter **501-2** may be coupled between the second signal input terminal and the second multiplexing transmission gate **508-2**. Here, the second input tri-state inverter **501-2** may invert the second input signal D2 to output a second inverted input signal ID2 when the inverted scan enable signal ISE has a logic 'high' level and the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the second input tri-state inverter **501-2** may separate the second multiplexing transmission gate **508-2** from the second signal input terminal when the inverted scan enable signal ISE has a logic 'low' level and the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'high' level. The second scan tri-state inverter **509-2** may be coupled to the second scan input terminal through which the second scan test signal SI2 is input. That is, the second scan tri-state inverter **509-2** may be coupled between the second scan input terminal and the second multiplexing transmission gate **508-2**. Here, the second scan tri-state inverter **509-2** may invert the second scan test signal SI2 to output the second inverted scan test signal ISI2 when the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'high' level and the inverted scan enable signal ISE has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the second scan tri-state inverter **509-2** may separate the second multiplexing transmission gate **508-2** from the second scan input terminal when the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'low' level and the inverted scan enable signal ISE has a logic 'high' level. The second multiplexing transmission gate **508-2** may be coupled to an output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter **501-2** and an output terminal of the second scan tri-state inverter **509-2**. The second multiplexing transmission gate **508-2** may transmit the second inverted input signal ID2 or the second inverted scan test signal ISI2 as a second multiplexing signal MS2 when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the second multiplexing transmission gate **508-2** may separate the second master inverter **502-2** from the second input tri-state inverter **501-2** and the second scan tri-state inverter **509-2** when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. The second master inverter **502-2** may be coupled to an output terminal of the second multiplexing transmission gate **508-2**. That is, the second master inverter **502-2** may be coupled between the second multiplexing transmission gate **508-2** and the second transmission gate **504-2**. Here, the second master inverter **502-2** may invert the second multiplexing signal MS2 received from the second multiplexing transmission gate **508-2** to output a second inverted multiplexing signal IMS2. The second master latch tri-state inverter **503-2** may be coupled between an output terminal of the second master inverter **502-2** and an output terminal of the second multiplexing transmission gate **508-2**. Here, the second master latch tri-state inverter **503-2** may invert the second inverted multiplexing signal IMS2 received from the second master inverter **502-2** to output the second multiplexing signal MS2 when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the second master latch tri-state inverter

39

503-2 may separate the output terminal of the second multiplexing transmission gate 508-2 from the output terminal of the second master inverter 502-2 when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level.

The second transmission gate 504-2 may be coupled to the output terminal of the second master inverter 502-2. That is, the second transmission gate 504-2 may be coupled between the second master inverter 502-2 and the second slave inverter 505-2. The second transmission gate 504-2 may transmit the second inverted multiplexing signal IMS2 received from the second master inverter 502-2 when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the second transmission gate 504-2 may separate the second slave inverter 505-2 from the second master inverter 502-2 when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level. The second slave inverter 505-2 may be coupled to an output terminal of the second transmission gate 504-2. That is, the second slave inverter 505-2 may be coupled between the second transmission gate 504-2 and the second output inverter 506-2. The second slave inverter 505-2 may invert the second inverted multiplexing signal IMS2 received from the second transmission gate 504-2 to output the second multiplexing signal MS2. The second output inverter 506-2 may be coupled to an output terminal of the second slave inverter 505-2. That is, the second output inverter 506-2 may be coupled between the second slave inverter 505-2 and a second signal output terminal through which the second output signal Q2 is output. The second output inverter 506-2 may invert the second multiplexing signal MS2 received from the second slave inverter 505-2 to output the second inverted multiplexing signal IMS2 as the second output signal Q2 through the second signal output terminal. The second slave latch tri-state inverter 507-2 may be coupled between an output terminal of the second slave inverter 505-2 and an output terminal of the second transmission gate 504-2. Here, the second slave latch tri-state inverter 507-2 may invert the second multiplexing signal MS2 received from the second slave inverter 505-2 to output the second inverted multiplexing signal IMS2 when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the second slave latch tri-state inverter 507-2 may separate the output terminal of the second transmission gate 504-2 from the output terminal of the second slave inverter 505-2 when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. Although it is illustrated in FIG. 15 that the selection inverter 510 is located in the first flip-flop 500-1, in some example embodiments, the selection inverter 510 may be located in the second flip-flop 500-2.

FIG. 16 is a block diagram illustrating another example of a multi-bit flip-flop block included in the scan chain circuit of the integrated circuit of FIG. 11.

Referring to FIG. 16, the scan chain circuit 430 may include a plurality of multi-bit flip-flop blocks 600. Here, each of the multi-bit flip-flop blocks 600 may include a single inverter 660 and a plurality of flip-flops 600-1 through 600-n. In FIG. 16, only one multi-bit flip-flop block 600 is illustrated. The flip-flops 600-1 through 600-n may be triggered at rising edges of a clock signal CK. For convenience of description, it is illustrated in FIG. 16 that the multi-bit flip-flop block 600 includes the single inverter 660, the first flip-flop 600-1, and the second flip-flop 600-2. As illustrated in FIG. 16, each of the first and second flip-flops 600-1 and 600-2 may be coupled to the single inverter 660,

40

and thus each of the first and second flip-flops 600-1 and 600-2 may receive the clock signal CK and an inverted clock signal ICK that is generated by inverting the clock signal CK. Here, when a scan enable signal SE has a logic 'low' level, the first flip-flop 600-1 may output a first input signal D1 latched at rising edges of the clock signal CK (i.e., at falling edges of the inverted clock signal ICK) as a first output signal Q1. On the other hand, when the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'high' level, the first flip-flop 600-1 may output a scan test signal SI latched at the rising edges of the clock signal CK (i.e., at the falling edges of the inverted clock signal ICK) as the first output signal Q1. In addition, when the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'low' level, the second flip-flop 600-2 may output a second input signal D2 latched at the rising edges of the clock signal CK (i.e., at the falling edges of the inverted clock signal ICK) as a second output signal Q2. On the other hand, when the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'high' level, the second flip-flop 600-2 may output the first output signal Q1 or a first inverted output signal IQ1 latched at the rising edges of the clock signal CK (i.e., at the falling edges of the inverted clock signal ICK) as the second output signal Q2. That is, the multi-bit flip-flop block 600 may operate the first flip-flop 600-1 and the second flip-flop 600-2 independently in a normal operation mode, but may operate the first flip-flop 600-1 and the second flip-flop 600-2 dependently in a scan test mode by directly coupling the first flip-flop 600-1 to the second flip-flop 600-2 or by coupling the first flip-flop 600-1 to the second flip-flop 600-2 via elements such as a buffer, an inverter, etc. As illustrated in FIG. 16, the first flip-flop 600-1 may include a first master latch part 620-1, a first slave latch part 640-1, and a first multiplexer part 680-1. The first flip-flop 600-1 may operate the first master latch part 620-1 and the first slave latch part 640-1 based on the clock signal CK and the inverted clock signal ICK. In addition, the second flip-flop 600-2 may include a second master latch part 620-2, a second slave latch part 640-2, and a second multiplexer part 680-2. The second flip-flop 600-2 may operate the second master latch part 620-2 and the second slave latch part 640-2 based on the clock signal CK and the inverted clock signal ICK. Since an operation (or, interaction) between the master latch part and the slave latch part in the flip-flops 600-1 through 600-n is described above, duplicated description will not be repeated. In example embodiments, the first and second flip-flops 600-1 and 600-2 may include a reset function and/or a set function. In some example embodiments, the first and second flip-flops 600-1 and 600-2 may further include a retention function.

FIG. 17 is a circuit diagram illustrating another example of a multi-bit flip-flop block included in the scan chain circuit of the integrated circuit of FIG. 11.

Referring to FIG. 17, the scan chain circuit 430 may include a plurality of multi-bit flip-flop blocks 600. Here, each of the multi-bit flip-flop blocks 600 may include a single inverter 660, a first flip-flop 600-1, and a second flip-flop 600-2. For convenience of description, only one multi-bit flip-flop block 600 is illustrated in FIG. 17. Here, the first flip-flop 600-1 may latch a first input signal D1 or a scan test signal SI at rising edges of a clock signal CK (i.e., at falling edges of an inverted clock signal ICK) to output the first input signal D1 or the scan test signal SI as a first output signal Q1, and the second flip-flop 600-2 may latch the first output signal Q1 or a first inverted output signal IQ1 at the rising edges of the clock signal CK (i.e., at the falling edges of the inverted clock signal ICK) to output the first output signal Q1 or the first inverted output signal IQ1 as a second output signal Q2. However, since a structure of the

41

multi-bit flip-flop block **600** illustrated in FIG. **17** is an example, a structure of the multi-bit flip-flop block **600** is not limited thereto. Meanwhile, since an operation (or, interaction) between the first master latch part **620-1** and the first slave latch part **640-1** in the first flip-flop **600-1** and an operation between the second master latch part **620-2** and the second slave latch part **640-2** in the second flip-flop **600-2** are described above, duplicated description will not be repeated.

The first flip-flop **600-1** may include a selection inverter **610**, a first input tri-state inverter **601-1**, a first scan tri-state inverter **609-1**, a first multiplexing transmission gate **608-1**, a first master inverter **602-1**, a first master latch tri-state inverter **603-1**, a first transmission gate **604-1**, a first slave inverter **605-1**, a first output inverter **606-1**, and a first slave latch tri-state inverter **607-1**. The selection inverter **610** may be coupled to a scan enable signal input terminal through which the scan enable signal SE is input. The selection inverter **610** may invert the scan enable signal SE to output an inverted scan enable signal ISE. The first input tri-state inverter **601-1** may be coupled to a first signal input terminal through which the first input signal D1 is input. That is, the first input tri-state inverter **601-1** may be coupled between the first signal input terminal and the first multiplexing transmission gate **608-1**. Here, the first input tri-state inverter **601-1** may invert the first input signal D1 to output a first inverted input signal ID1 when the inverted scan enable signal ISE has a logic 'high' level and the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the first input tri-state inverter **601-1** may separate the first multiplexing transmission gate **608-1** from the first signal input terminal when the inverted scan enable signal ISE has a logic 'low' level and the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'high' level. The first scan tri-state inverter **609-1** may be coupled to the scan input terminal through which the scan test signal SI is input. That is, the first scan tri-state inverter **609-1** may be coupled between the scan input terminal and the first multiplexing transmission gate **608-1**. Here, the first scan tri-state inverter **609-1** may invert the scan test signal SI to output the inverted scan test signal ISI when the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'high' level and the inverted scan enable signal ISE has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the first scan tri-state inverter **609-1** may separate the first multiplexing transmission gate **608-1** from the scan input terminal when the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'low' level and the inverted scan enable signal ISE has a logic 'high' level. The first multiplexing transmission gate **608-1** may be coupled to an output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter **601-1** and an output terminal of the first scan tri-state inverter **609-1**. The first multiplexing transmission gate **608-1** may transmit the first inverted input signal ID1 or the inverted scan test signal ISI as a first multiplexing signal MS1 when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the first multiplexing transmission gate **608-1** may separate the first master inverter **602-1** from the first input tri-state inverter **601-1** and the first scan tri-state inverter **609-1** when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. The first master inverter **602-1** may be coupled to an output terminal of the first multiplexing transmission gate **608-1**. That is, the first master inverter **602-1** may be coupled between the first multiplexing transmission gate **608-1** and the first transmission gate **604-1**. Here, the first master inverter **602-1** may invert the first multiplexing signal MS1 received from the first multiplexing transmission gate **608-1** to output a first inverted mul-

42

tiplexing signal IMS1. The first master latch tri-state inverter **603-1** may be coupled between an output terminal of the first master inverter **602-1** and an output terminal of the first multiplexing transmission gate **608-1**. Here, the first master latch tri-state inverter **603-1** may invert the first inverted multiplexing signal IMS1 received from the first master inverter **602-1** to output the first multiplexing signal MS1 when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the first master latch tri-state inverter **603-1** may separate the output terminal of the first multiplexing transmission gate **608-1** from the output terminal of the first master inverter **602-1** when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level.

The first transmission gate **604-1** may be coupled to the output terminal of the first master inverter **602-1**. That is, the first transmission gate **604-1** may be coupled between the first master inverter **602-1** and the first slave inverter **605-1**. The first transmission gate **604-1** may transmit the first inverted multiplexing signal IMS1 received from the first master inverter **602-1** when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the first transmission gate **604-1** may separate the first slave inverter **605-1** from the first master inverter **602-1** when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level. The first slave inverter **605-1** may be coupled to an output terminal of the first transmission gate **604-1**. That is, the first slave inverter **605-1** may be coupled between the first transmission gate **604-1** and the first output inverter **606-1**. The first slave inverter **605-1** may invert the first inverted multiplexing signal IMS1 received from the first transmission gate **604-1** to output the first multiplexing signal MS1. The first output inverter **606-1** may be coupled to an output terminal of the first slave inverter **605-1**. That is, the first output inverter **606-1** may be coupled between the first slave inverter **605-1** and a first signal output terminal through which the first output signal Q1 is output. The first output inverter **606-1** may invert the first multiplexing signal MS1 received from the first slave inverter **605-1** to output the first inverted multiplexing signal IMS1 as the first output signal Q1 through the first signal output terminal. The first slave latch tri-state inverter **607-1** may be coupled between an output terminal of the first slave inverter **605-1** and an output terminal of the first transmission gate **604-1**. Here, the first slave latch tri-state inverter **607-1** may invert the first multiplexing signal MS1 received from the first slave inverter **605-1** to output the first inverted multiplexing signal IMS1 when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the first slave latch tri-state inverter **607-1** may separate the output terminal of the first transmission gate **604-1** from the output terminal of the first slave inverter **605-1** when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level.

The second flip-flop **600-2** may include a second input tri-state inverter **601-2**, a second scan transmission gate **609-2**, a second multiplexing transmission gate **608-2**, a second master inverter **602-2**, a second master latch tri-state inverter **603-2**, a second transmission gate **604-2**, a second slave inverter **605-2**, a second output inverter **606-2**, and a second slave latch tri-state inverter **607-2**. The second input tri-state inverter **601-2** may be coupled to a second signal input terminal through which the second input signal D2 is input. That is, the second input tri-state inverter **601-2** may be coupled between the second signal input terminal and the

43

second multiplexing transmission gate **608-2**. Here, the second input tri-state inverter **601-2** may invert the second input signal **D2** to output a second inverted input signal **ID2** when the inverted scan enable signal **ISE** has a logic 'high' level and the scan enable signal **SE** has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the second input tri-state inverter **601-2** may separate the second multiplexing transmission gate **608-2** from the second signal input terminal when the inverted scan enable signal **ISE** has a logic 'low' level and the scan enable signal **SE** has a logic 'high' level. The second scan transmission gate **609-2** may receive the first output signal **Q1** or the first inverted output signal **IQ1**. Here, the second scan transmission gate **609-2** may output a connection signal **CNS** corresponding to the first output signal **Q1** or the first inverted output signal **IQ1** when the scan enable signal **SE** has a logic 'high' level and the inverted scan enable signal **ISE** has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the second scan transmission gate **609-2** may not output the connection signal **CNS** corresponding to the first output signal **Q1** or the first inverted output signal **IQ1** when the scan enable signal **SE** has a logic 'low' level and the inverted scan enable signal **ISE** has a logic 'high' level. The second multiplexing transmission gate **608-2** may be coupled to an output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter **601-2** and an output terminal of the second scan transmission gate **609-2**. The second multiplexing transmission gate **608-2** may transmit the second inverted input signal **ID2** or the connection signal **CNS** as a second multiplexing signal **MS2** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the second multiplexing transmission gate **608-2** may separate the second master inverter **602-2** from the second input tri-state inverter **601-2** and the second scan transmission gate **609-2** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'low' level. The second master inverter **602-2** may be coupled to an output terminal of the second multiplexing transmission gate **608-2**. That is, the second master inverter **602-2** may be coupled between the second multiplexing transmission gate **608-2** and the second transmission gate **604-2**. Here, the second master inverter **602-2** may invert the second multiplexing signal **MS2** received from the second multiplexing transmission gate **608-2** to output a second inverted multiplexing signal **IMS2**. The second master latch tri-state inverter **603-2** may be coupled between an output terminal of the second master inverter **602-2** and an output terminal of the second multiplexing transmission gate **608-2**. Here, the second master latch tri-state inverter **603-2** may invert the second inverted multiplexing signal **IMS2** received from the second master inverter **602-2** to output the second multiplexing signal **MS2** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the second master latch tri-state inverter **603-2** may separate the output terminal of the second multiplexing transmission gate **608-2** from the output terminal of the second master inverter **602-2** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'high' level.

The second transmission gate **604-2** may be coupled to the output terminal of the second master inverter **602-2**. That is, the second transmission gate **604-2** may be coupled between the second master inverter **602-2** and the second slave inverter **605-2**. The second transmission gate **604-2** may transmit the second inverted multiplexing signal **IMS2** received from the second master inverter **602-2** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'high' level and the inverted

44

clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the second transmission gate **604-2** may separate the second slave inverter **605-2** from the second master inverter **602-2** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'high' level. The second slave inverter **605-2** may be coupled to an output terminal of the second transmission gate **604-2**. That is, the second slave inverter **605-2** may be coupled between the second transmission gate **604-2** and the second output inverter **606-2**. The second slave inverter **605-2** may invert the second inverted multiplexing signal **IMS2** received from the second transmission gate **604-2** to output the second multiplexing signal **MS2**. The second output inverter **606-2** may be coupled to an output terminal of the second slave inverter **605-2**. That is, the second output inverter **606-2** may be coupled between the second slave inverter **605-2** and a second signal output terminal through which the second output signal **Q2** is output. The second output inverter **606-2** may invert the second multiplexing signal **MS2** received from the second slave inverter **605-2** to output the second inverted multiplexing signal **IMS2** as the second output signal **Q2** through the second signal output terminal. The second slave latch tri-state inverter **607-2** may be coupled between an output terminal of the second slave inverter **605-2** and an output terminal of the second transmission gate **604-2**. Here, the second slave latch tri-state inverter **607-2** may invert the second multiplexing signal **MS2** received from the second slave inverter **605-2** to output the second inverted multiplexing signal **IMS2** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the second slave latch tri-state inverter **607-2** may separate the output terminal of the second transmission gate **604-2** from the output terminal of the second slave inverter **605-2** when the clock signal **CK** has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal **ICK** has a logic 'low' level. Although it is illustrated in FIG. 17 that the selection inverter **610** is located in the first flip-flop **600-1**, in some example embodiments, the selection inverter **610** may be located in the second flip-flop **600-2**.

FIG. 18 is a block diagram illustrating still another example of a multi-bit flip-flop block included in the scan chain circuit of the integrated circuit of FIG. 11.

Referring to FIG. 18, the scan chain circuit **430** may include a plurality of multi-bit flip-flop blocks **700**. Here, each of the multi-bit flip-flop blocks **700** may include a single inverter **760** and a plurality of flip-flops **700-1** through **700-n**. In FIG. 18, only one multi-bit flip-flop block **700** is illustrated. The flip-flops **700-1** through **700-n** may be triggered at rising edges of a clock signal **CK**. For convenience of description, it is illustrated in FIG. 18 that the multi-bit flip-flop block **700** includes the single inverter **760**, the first flip-flop **700-1**, and the second flip-flop **700-2**. As illustrated in FIG. 18, the first flip-flop **700-1** may be coupled to the single inverter **760**, and thus the first flip-flop **700-1** may receive the clock signal **CK** and an inverted clock signal **ICK** that is generated by inverting the clock signal **CK**. Here, when a scan enable signal **SE** has a logic 'low' level, the first flip-flop **700-1** may output a first input signal **D1** latched at rising edges of the clock signal **CK** (i.e., at falling edges of the inverted clock signal **ICK**) as a first output signal **Q1**. On the other hand, when the scan enable signal **SE** has a logic 'high' level, the first flip-flop **700-1** may output a scan test signal **SI** latched at the rising edges of the clock signal **CK** (i.e., at the falling edges of the inverted clock signal **ICK**) as the first output signal **Q1**. The second flip-flop **700-2** may output the first output signal **Q1** or a first inverted output signal **IQ1** latched at the rising

45

edges of the clock signal CK (i.e., at the falling edges of the inverted clock signal ICK) as a second output signal Q2. That is, the multi-bit flip-flop block 700 may operate the first flip-flop 700-1 and the second flip-flop 700-2 dependently in a normal operation mode and in a scan test mode by directly coupling the first flip-flop 700-1 to the second flip-flop 700-2 or by coupling the first flip-flop 700-1 to the second flip-flop 700-2 via elements such as a buffer, an inverter, etc. As illustrated in FIG. 18, the first flip-flop 700-1 may include a first master latch part 720-1, a first slave latch part 740-1, and a first multiplexer part 780. The first flip-flop 700-1 may operate the first master latch part 720-1 and the first slave latch part 740-1 based on the clock signal CK and the inverted clock signal ICK. In addition, the second flip-flop 700-2 may include a second master latch part 720-2 and a second slave latch part 740-2. The second flip-flop 700-2 may operate the second master latch part 720-2 and the second slave latch part 740-2 based on the clock signal CK and the inverted clock signal ICK. Since an operation (or, interaction) between the master latch part and the slave latch part in the flip-flops 700-1 through 700-n is described above, duplicated description will not be repeated. In example embodiments, the first and second flip-flops 700-1 and 700-2 may include a reset function and/or a set function. In some example embodiments, the first and second flip-flops 700-1 and 700-2 may further include a retention function.

FIG. 19 is a circuit diagram illustrating still another example of a multi-bit flip-flop block included in the scan chain circuit of the integrated circuit of FIG. 11.

Referring to FIG. 19, the scan chain circuit 430 may include a plurality of multi-bit flip-flop blocks 700. Here, each of the multi-bit flip-flop blocks 700 may include a single inverter 760, a first flip-flop 700-1, and a second flip-flop 700-2. For convenience of description, only one multi-bit flip-flop block 700 is illustrated in FIG. 19. Here, the first flip-flop 700-1 may latch a first input signal D1 or a scan test signal SI at rising edges of a clock signal CK (i.e., at falling edges of an inverted clock signal ICK) to output the first input signal D1 or the scan test signal SI as a first output signal Q1, and the second flip-flop 700-2 may latch the first output signal Q1 or a first inverted output signal IQ1 at the rising edges of the clock signal CK (i.e., at the falling edges of the inverted clock signal ICK) to output the first output signal Q1 or the first inverted output signal IQ1 as a second output signal Q2. However, since a structure of the multi-bit flip-flop block 700 illustrated in FIG. 19 is an example, a structure of the multi-bit flip-flop block 700 is not limited thereto. Meanwhile, since an operation (or, interaction) between the first master latch part 720-1 and the first slave latch part 740-1 in the first flip-flop 700-1 and an operation between the second master latch part 720-2 and the second slave latch part 740-2 in the second flip-flop 700-2 are described above, duplicated description will not be repeated.

The first flip-flop 700-1 may include a selection inverter 710, a first input tri-state inverter 701, a first scan tri-state inverter 709, a first multiplexing transmission gate 708-1, a first master inverter 702-1, a first master latch tri-state inverter 703-1, a first transmission gate 704-1, a first slave inverter 705-1, a first output inverter 706-1, and a first slave latch tri-state inverter 707-1. The selection inverter 710 may be coupled to a scan enable signal input terminal through which the scan enable signal SE is input. The selection inverter 710 may invert the scan enable signal SE to output an inverted scan enable signal ISE. The first input tri-state inverter 701 may be coupled to a first signal input terminal through which the first input signal D1 is input. That is, the

46

first input tri-state inverter 701 may be coupled between the first signal input terminal and the first multiplexing transmission gate 708-1. Here, the first input tri-state inverter 701 may invert the first input signal D1 to output a first inverted input signal ID1 when the inverted scan enable signal ISE has a logic 'high' level and the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the first input tri-state inverter 701 may separate the first multiplexing transmission gate 708-1 from the first signal input terminal when the inverted scan enable signal ISE has a logic 'low' level and the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'high' level. The first scan tri-state inverter 709 may be coupled to the scan input terminal through which the scan test signal SI is input. That is, the first scan tri-state inverter 709 may be coupled between the scan input terminal and the first multiplexing transmission gate 708-1. Here, the first scan tri-state inverter 709 may invert the scan test signal SI to output the inverted scan test signal ISI when the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'high' level and the inverted scan enable signal ISE has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the first scan tri-state inverter 709 may separate the first multiplexing transmission gate 708-1 from the scan input terminal when the scan enable signal SE has a logic 'low' level and the inverted scan enable signal ISE has a logic 'high' level. The first multiplexing transmission gate 708-1 may be coupled to an output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter 701 and an output terminal of the first scan tri-state inverter 709. The first multiplexing transmission gate 708-1 may transmit the first inverted input signal ID1 or the inverted scan test signal ISI as a first multiplexing signal MS1 when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the first multiplexing transmission gate 708-1 may separate the first master inverter 702-1 from the first input tri-state inverter 701 and the first scan tri-state inverter 709 when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. The first master inverter 702-1 may be coupled to an output terminal of the first multiplexing transmission gate 708-1. That is, the first master inverter 702-1 may be coupled between the first multiplexing transmission gate 708-1 and the first transmission gate 704-1. Here, the first master inverter 702-1 may invert the first multiplexing signal MS1 received from the first multiplexing transmission gate 708-1 to output a first inverted multiplexing signal IMS1. The first master latch tri-state inverter 703-1 may be coupled between an output terminal of the first master inverter 702-1 and an output terminal of the first multiplexing transmission gate 708-1. Here, the first master latch tri-state inverter 703-1 may invert the first inverted multiplexing signal IMS1 received from the first master inverter 702-1 to output the first multiplexing signal MS1 when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the first master latch tri-state inverter 703-1 may separate the output terminal of the first multiplexing transmission gate 708-1 from the output terminal of the first master inverter 702-1 when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level.

The first transmission gate 704-1 may be coupled to the output terminal of the first master inverter 702-1. That is, the first transmission gate 704-1 may be coupled between the first master inverter 702-1 and the first slave inverter 705-1. The first transmission gate 704-1 may transmit the first inverted multiplexing signal IMS1 received from the first master inverter 702-1 when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic

'low' level. On the other hand, the first transmission gate **704-1** may separate the first slave inverter **705-1** from the first master inverter **702-1** when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level. The first slave inverter **705-1** may be coupled to an output terminal of the first transmission gate **704-1**. That is, the first slave inverter **705-1** may be coupled between the first transmission gate **704-1** and the first output inverter **706-1**. The first slave inverter **705-1** may invert the first inverted multiplexing signal IMS1 received from the first transmission gate **704-1** to output the first multiplexing signal MS1. The first output inverter **706-1** may be coupled to an output terminal of the first slave inverter **705-1**. That is, the first output inverter **706-1** may be coupled between the first slave inverter **705-1** and a first signal output terminal through which the first output signal Q1 is output. The first output inverter **706-1** may invert the first multiplexing signal MS1 received from the first slave inverter **705-1** to output the first inverted multiplexing signal IMS1 as the first output signal Q1 through the first signal output terminal. The first slave latch tri-state inverter **707-1** may be coupled between an output terminal of the first slave inverter **705-1** and an output terminal of the first transmission gate **704-1**. Here, the first slave latch tri-state inverter **707-1** may invert the first multiplexing signal MS1 received from the first slave inverter **705-1** to output the first inverted multiplexing signal IMS1 when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the first slave latch tri-state inverter **707-1** may separate the output terminal of the first transmission gate **704-1** from the output terminal of the first slave inverter **705-1** when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level.

The second flip-flop **700-2** may include a second connection tri-state inverter **708-2**, a second master inverter **702-2**, a second master latch tri-state inverter **703-2**, a second transmission gate **704-2**, a second slave inverter **705-2**, a second output inverter **706-2**, and a second slave latch tri-state inverter **707-2**. The second connection tri-state inverter **708-2** may receive the first output signal Q1 or the first inverted output signal IQ1. Here, the second connection tri-state inverter **708-2** may invert the connection signal CNS corresponding to the first output signal Q1 or the first inverted output signal IQ1 to output an inverted connection signal ICNS when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the second connection tri-state inverter **708-2** may not output the inverted connection signal ICNS when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. The second master inverter **702-2** may be coupled to an output terminal of the second connection tri-state inverter **708-2**. That is, the second master inverter **702-2** may be coupled between the second connection tri-state inverter **708-2** and the second transmission gate **704-2**. Here, the second master inverter **702-2** may invert the inverted connection signal ICNS received from the second connection tri-state inverter **708-2** to output the connection signal CNS. The second master latch tri-state inverter **703-2** may be coupled between an output terminal of the second master inverter **702-2** and an output terminal of the second connection tri-state inverter **708-2**. Here, the second master latch tri-state inverter **703-2** may invert the connection signal CNS received from the second master inverter **702-2** to output the inverted connection signal ICNS when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the second master latch tri-state

inverter **703-2** may separate the output terminal of the second connection tri-state inverter **708-2** from the output terminal of the second master inverter **702-2** when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level.

The second transmission gate **704-2** may be coupled to the output terminal of the second master inverter **702-2**. That is, the second transmission gate **704-2** may be coupled between the second master inverter **702-2** and the second slave inverter **705-2**. The second transmission gate **704-2** may transmit the connection signal CNS received from the second master inverter **702-2** when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. On the other hand, the second transmission gate **704-2** may separate the second slave inverter **705-2** from the second master inverter **702-2** when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level. The second slave inverter **705-2** may be coupled to an output terminal of the second transmission gate **704-2**. That is, the second slave inverter **705-2** may be coupled between the second transmission gate **704-2** and the second output inverter **706-2**. The second slave inverter **705-2** may invert the connection signal CNS received from the second transmission gate **704-2** to output the inverted connection signal ICNS. The second output inverter **706-2** may be coupled to an output terminal of the second slave inverter **705-2**. That is, the second output inverter **706-2** may be coupled between the second slave inverter **705-2** and a second signal output terminal through which the second output signal Q2 is output. The second output inverter **706-2** may invert the inverted connection signal ICNS received from the second slave inverter **705-2** to output the connection signal CNS as the second output signal Q2 through the second signal output terminal. The second slave latch tri-state inverter **707-2** may be coupled between an output terminal of the second slave inverter **705-2** and an output terminal of the second transmission gate **704-2**. Here, the second slave latch tri-state inverter **707-2** may invert the inverted connection signal ICNS received from the second slave inverter **705-2** to output the connection signal CNS when the clock signal CK has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'high' level. On the other hand, the second slave latch tri-state inverter **707-2** may separate the output terminal of the second transmission gate **704-2** from the output terminal of the second slave inverter **705-2** when the clock signal CK has a logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal ICK has a logic 'low' level. As described above, since each of the multi-bit flip-flop blocks **700** includes the first flip-flop **700-1** and the second flip-flop **700-2** that are directly coupled or that are coupled via at least one buffer, at least one inverter, etc., each of the multi-bit flip-flop blocks **700** may be applied to a synchronizer or a structure including no logical elements other than the buffer or the inverter between the first flip-flop **700-1** and the second flip-flop **700-2**. Thus, the scan chain circuit **430** including the multi-bit flip-flop blocks **700** may reduce power consumption. In addition, the scan chain circuit **430** may reduce a chip size (or, a chip area) of an integrated circuit (e.g., system on-chip) including the scan chain circuit **430**.

FIG. 20 is a block diagram illustrating an integrated circuit testing system according to example embodiments.

Referring to FIG. 20, the integrated circuit testing system **1000** may include a test controller **1020**, first through (k)th integrated circuits **1040-1** through **1040-k**, a memory device **1060**, a test data generator **1070**, and a test result generator **1080**, where k is an integer greater than or equal to 1. Each

49

of the first through (k)th integrated circuits **1040-1** through **1040-k** may include a combinational logic circuit and a scan chain circuit. Here, the combinational logic circuit may include a plurality of flip-flops, and the flip-flops may form a scan path by being coupled to the combinational logic circuit. In some example embodiments, each of the first through (k)th integrated circuits **1040-1** through **1040-k** may be implemented as a system on-chip.

The test controller **1020** may control a scan test for each of the first through (k)th integrated circuits **1040-1** through **1040-k** by controlling the first through (k)th integrated circuits **1040-1** through **1040-k**, the memory device **1060**, the test data generator **1070**, and the test result generator **1080**. The integrated circuit testing system **1000** may perform the scan test for each of the first through (k)th integrated circuits **1040-1** through **1040-k** by performing a shift-in operation that sequentially loads a test pattern on the scan chain circuit, by performing a capture operation that stores an observation value of the combinational logic circuit in the scan chain circuit, where the observation value is generated based on the test pattern loaded on the scan chain circuit, and by performing a shift-out operation that sequentially outputs the observation value stored in the scan chain circuit. The scan chain circuit included in each of the first through (k)th integrated circuits **1040-1** through **1040-k** may include a plurality of multi-bit flip-flop blocks that share a clock signal. Each of the multi-bit flip-flop blocks may include a plurality of flip-flops and a single inverter that provides the clock signal and an inverted clock signal for driving the flip-flops, where the inverted clock signal is generated by inverting the clock signal. Here, the flip-flops of the scan chain circuit included in each of the first through (k)th integrated circuits **1040-1** through **1040-k** may be triggered at rising edges of the clock signal (i.e., at falling edges of the inverted clock signal). Since these operations and structures are described above, duplicated description will not be repeated.

In the integrated circuit testing system **1000**, the memory device **1060** may store data for the scan test. Specifically, the memory device **1060** may store the test pattern that is generated by the test data generator **1070** and that is applied to the scan chain circuit included in each of the first through (k)th integrated circuits **1040-1** through **1040-k**, the observation value of the combinational logic circuit that is generated based on the test pattern, a reference pattern that is compared with the observation value, a test result (i.e., a comparison result between the observation value and the reference pattern) that is output from the test result generator **1080**, etc. For example, the memory device **1060** may include a volatile semiconductor memory device such as a dynamic random access memory (DRAM) device, a static random access memory (SRAM) device, a mobile DRAM device, etc., and/or a non-volatile semiconductor memory device such as an erasable programmable read-only memory (EPROM) device, an electrically erasable programmable read-only memory (EEPROM) device, a flash memory device, a phase change random access memory (PRAM) device, a resistance random access memory (RRAM) device, a nano floating gate memory (NFGM) device, a polymer random access memory (PoRAM) device, a magnetic random access memory (MRAM) device, a ferroelectric random access memory (FRAM) device, etc. In some example embodiments, the integrated circuit testing system **1000** may further include a storage device such as a solid state drive (SSD) device, a hard disk drive (HDD) device, a CD-ROM device, etc.

50

The test data generator **1070** may generate the test pattern that is applied to the scan chain circuit included in each of the first through (k)th integrated circuits **1040-1** through **1040-k**. The test result generator **1080** may generate the test result by comparing the observation value output from each of the first through (k)th integrated circuits **1040-1** through **1040-k** with the reference pattern. As described above, the observation value may be generated by performing the shift-in operation that sequentially loads the test pattern on the scan chain circuit, by performing the capture operation that stores the observation value of the combinational logic circuit in the scan chain circuit, and by performing the shift-out operation that sequentially outputs the observation value stored in the scan chain circuit. For example, when the observation value is consistent with the reference pattern, the test result generator **1080** may output the test result indicating that no defect exists in the combinational logic circuit. On the other hand, when the observation value is inconsistent with the reference pattern, the test result generator **1080** may output the test result indicating that a defect exists in the combinational logic circuit. In some example embodiments, to obtain a more accurate test result, the integrated circuit testing system **1000** may perform the scan test for each of the first through (k)th integrated circuits **1040-1** through **1040-k** several times. Although a multi-bit flip-flop, a scan chain circuit, and an integrated circuit testing system according to example embodiments are described with reference to FIGS. 1 through 20, the multi-bit flip-flop, the scan chain circuit, and the integrated circuit testing system are not limited thereto. That is, many modifications of the multi-bit flip-flop, the scan chain circuit, and the integrated circuit testing system are possible without materially departing from the novel teachings and advantages of the present inventive concepts.

The present inventive concepts may be applied to a multi-bit flip-flop, a scan chain circuit, and an integrated circuit (e.g., a system on-chip, etc.) including the multi-bit flip-flop and the scan chain circuit. For example, the present inventive concepts may be applied to various integrated circuits included in a computer, a workstation, a laptop, a game console, a cellular phone, a smart phone, a smart pad, a tablet PC, a personal digital assistants (PDA), a portable multimedia player (PMP), an MP3 player, etc.

The foregoing is illustrative of example embodiments and is not to be construed as limiting thereof. Although a few example embodiments have been described, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that many modifications are possible in the example embodiments without materially departing from the novel teachings and advantages of the present inventive concepts. Accordingly, all such modifications are intended to be included within the scope of the present inventive concepts as defined in the claims. Therefore, it is to be understood that the foregoing is illustrative of various example embodiments and is not to be construed as limited to the specific example embodiments disclosed, and that modifications to the disclosed example embodiments, as well as other example embodiments, are intended to be included within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A multi-bit flip-flop comprising:
 - a plurality of multi-bit flip-flop blocks configured to share a clock signal,
 - wherein each of the multi-bit flip-flop blocks includes,
 - a single inverter configured to generate an inverted clock signal by inverting the clock signal; and
 - a plurality of flip-flops each including a master latch part and a slave latch part and configured to operate

51

the master latch part and the slave latch part based on the clock signal and the inverted clock signal, the flip-flops being triggered at rising edges of the clock signal.

2. The flip-flop of claim 1, wherein the flip-flops includes a first flip-flop and a second flip-flop, the first flip-flop outputs a first input signal latched at the rising edges of the clock signal as a first output signal, and the second flip-flop outputs a second input signal latched at the rising edges of the clock signal as a second output signal.

3. The flip-flop of claim 2, wherein the first flip-flop includes:

- a first input tri-state inverter coupled to a first signal input terminal through which the first input signal is input and configured to invert the first input signal to output a first inverted input signal when the clock signal has a logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has a logic 'high' level;
- a first master inverter coupled to an output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter and configured to invert the first inverted input signal received from the first input tri-state inverter to output the first input signal;
- a first master latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the first master inverter and the output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter and configured to invert the first input signal received from the first master inverter to output the first inverted input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level;
- a first transmission gate coupled to the output terminal of the first master inverter and configured to transmit the first input signal received from the first master inverter when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level;
- a first slave inverter coupled to an output terminal of the first transmission gate and configured to invert the first input signal received from the first transmission gate to output the first inverted input signal;
- a first slave latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the first slave inverter and the output terminal of the first transmission gate and configured to invert the first inverted input signal received from the first slave inverter to output the first input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level; and
- a first output inverter coupled to the output terminal of the first slave inverter and configured to invert the first inverted input signal received from the first slave inverter to output the first input signal through a first signal output terminal as the first output signal.

4. The flip-flop of claim 3, wherein the second flip-flop includes:

- a second input tri-state inverter coupled to a second signal input terminal through which the second input signal is input and configured to invert the second input signal to output a second inverted input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level;
- a second master inverter coupled to an output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter and configured to invert the second inverted input signal received from the second input tri-state inverter to output the second input signal;
- a second master latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second master inverter and the output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter and configured to invert the second input signal received

52

from the second master inverter to output the second inverted input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level;

a second transmission gate coupled to the output terminal of the second master inverter and configured to transmit the second input signal received from the second master inverter when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level;

a second slave inverter coupled to an output terminal of the second transmission gate and configured to invert the second input signal received from the second transmission gate to output the second inverted input signal;

a second slave latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second slave inverter and the output terminal of the second transmission gate and configured to invert the second inverted input signal received from the second slave inverter to output the second input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level; and

a second output inverter coupled to the output terminal of the second slave inverter and configured to invert the second inverted input signal received from the second slave inverter to output the second input signal through a second signal output terminal as the second output signal.

5. The flip-flop of claim 2, wherein the first flip-flop includes a reset function that resets the first output signal to have the logic 'low' level in response to a reset signal input through a reset terminal, and the second flip-flop includes a reset function that resets the second output signal to have the logic 'low' level in response to the reset signal input through the reset terminal.

6. The flip-flop of claim 5, wherein the first flip-flop includes:

- a first input tri-state inverter coupled to a first signal input terminal through which the first input signal is input and configured to invert the first input signal to output a first inverted input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level;
- a first logical XOR element coupled to the reset terminal and an output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter and configured to output a first operation signal by performing a logical XOR operation between the first inverted input signal received from the first input tri-state inverter and the reset signal input through the reset terminal;
- a first master latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the first logical XOR element and the output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter and configured to invert the first operation signal received from the first logical XOR element to output a first inverted operation signal corresponding to the first inverted input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level;
- a first transmission gate coupled to the output terminal of the first logical XOR element and configured to transmit the first operation signal received from the first logical XOR element when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level;
- a first slave inverter coupled to an output terminal of the first transmission gate and configured to invert the first

53

- operation signal received from the first transmission gate to output the first inverted operation signal;
- a first slave latch-reset tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the first slave inverter and the output terminal of the first transmission gate, configured to invert the first inverted operation signal received from the first slave inverter to output the first operation signal when the reset signal has the logic 'low' level, the clock signal has the logic 'low' level, and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, and configured to reset the first operation signal to have the logic 'low' level when the reset signal has the logic 'high' level; and
 - a first output inverter coupled to the output terminal of the first slave inverter and configured to invert the first inverted operation signal received from the first slave inverter to output the first operation signal through a first signal output terminal as the first output signal.
7. The flip-flop of claim 6, wherein the second flip-flop includes:
- a second input tri-state inverter coupled to a second signal input terminal through which the second input signal is input and configured to invert the second input signal to output a second inverted input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level;
 - a second logical XOR element coupled to the reset terminal and an output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter and configured to output a second operation signal by performing a logical XOR operation between the second inverted input signal received from the second input tri-state inverter and the reset signal input through the reset terminal;
 - a second master latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second logical XOR element and the output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter and configured to invert the second operation signal received from the second logical XOR element to output a second inverted operation signal corresponding to the second inverted input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level;
 - a second transmission gate coupled to the output terminal of the second logical XOR element and configured to transmit the second operation signal received from the second logical XOR element when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level;
 - a second slave inverter coupled to an output terminal of the second transmission gate and configured to invert the second operation signal received from the second transmission gate to output the second inverted operation signal;
 - a second slave latch-reset tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second slave inverter and the output terminal of the second transmission gate, configured to invert the second inverted operation signal received from the second slave inverter to output the second operation signal when the reset signal has the logic 'low' level, the clock signal has the logic 'low' level, and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, and configured to reset the second operation signal to have the logic 'low' level when the reset signal has the logic 'high' level; and
 - a second output inverter coupled to the output terminal of the second slave inverter and configured to invert the second inverted operation signal received from the

54

- second slave inverter to output the second operation signal through a second signal output terminal as the second output signal.
8. The flip-flop of claim 2, wherein the first flip-flop includes a set function that sets the first output signal to have the logic 'high' level in response to an inverted set signal input through a set terminal, and the second flip-flop includes a set function that sets the second output signal to have the logic 'high' level in response to the inverted set signal input through the set terminal.
9. The flip-flop of claim 8, wherein the first flip-flop includes:
- a first input tri-state inverter coupled to a first signal input terminal through which the first input signal is input and configured to invert the first input signal to output a first inverted input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level;
 - a first logical NAND element coupled to the set terminal and an output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter and configured to output a first operation signal by performing a logical NAND operation between the first inverted input signal received from the first input tri-state inverter and the inverted set signal input through the set terminal;
 - a first master latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the first logical NAND element and the output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter and configured to invert the first operation signal received from the first logical NAND element to output a first inverted operation signal corresponding to the first inverted input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level;
 - a first transmission gate coupled to the output terminal of the first logical NAND element and configured to transmit the first operation signal received from the first logical NAND element when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level;
 - a first slave inverter coupled to an output terminal of the first transmission gate and configured to invert the first operation signal received from the first transmission gate to output the first inverted operation signal;
 - a first slave latch-set tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the first slave inverter and the output terminal of the first transmission gate, configured to invert the first inverted operation signal received from the first slave inverter to output the first operation signal when the inverted set signal has the logic 'high' level, the clock signal has the logic 'low' level, and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, and configured to set the first operation signal to have the logic 'high' level when the inverted set signal has the logic 'low' level; and
 - a first output inverter coupled to the output terminal of the first slave inverter and configured to invert the first inverted operation signal received from the first slave inverter to output the first operation signal through a first signal output terminal as the first output signal.
10. The flip-flop of claim 9, wherein the second flip-flop includes:
- a second input tri-state inverter coupled to a second signal input terminal through which the second input signal is input and configured to invert the second input signal to output a second inverted input signal when the clock

55

- signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level;
- a second logical NAND element coupled to the set terminal and an output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter and configured to output a second operation signal by performing a logical NAND operation between the second inverted input signal received from the second input tri-state inverter and the inverted set signal input through the set terminal;
 - a second master latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second logical NAND element and the output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter and configured to invert the second operation signal received from the second logical NAND element to output a second inverted operation signal corresponding to the second inverted input signal when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level;
 - a second transmission gate coupled to the output terminal of the second logical NAND element and configured to transmit the second operation signal received from the second logical NAND element when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level;
 - a second slave inverter coupled to an output terminal of the second transmission gate and configured to invert the second operation signal received from the second transmission gate to output the second inverted operation signal;
 - a second slave latch-set tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second slave inverter and the output terminal of the second transmission gate, configured to invert the second inverted operation signal received from the second slave inverter to output the second operation signal when the inverted set signal has the logic 'high' level, the clock signal has the logic 'low' level, and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level, and configured to set the second operation signal to have the logic 'high' level when the inverted set signal has the logic 'low' level; and
 - a second output inverter coupled to the output terminal of the second slave inverter and configured to invert the second inverted operation signal received from the second slave inverter to output the second operation signal through a second signal output terminal as the second output signal.

11. A scan chain circuit comprising:

- a plurality of multi-bit flip-flop blocks configured to share a clock signal,
- wherein each of the multi-bit flip-flop blocks includes,
 - a single inverter configured to generate an inverted clock signal by inverting the clock signal; and
 - a plurality of flip-flops each including a multiplexer part, a master latch part, and a slave latch part and configured to operate the master latch part and the slave latch part based on the clock signal and the inverted clock signal, the flip-flops being triggered at rising edges of the clock signal.

12. The circuit of claim 11, wherein the flip-flops includes a first flip-flop and a second flip-flop, the first flip-flop outputs a first input signal or a first scan test signal latched at the rising edges of the clock signal as a first output signal, and the second flip-flop outputs a second input signal or a second scan test signal latched at the rising edges of the clock signal as a second output signal.

13. The circuit of claim 12, wherein the first flip-flop includes:

56

- a selection inverter coupled to a scan enable signal input terminal through which a scan enable signal is input and configured to invert the scan enable signal to output an inverted scan enable signal;
 - a first input tri-state inverter coupled to a first signal input terminal through which the first input signal is input and configured to invert the first input signal to output a first inverted input signal when the scan enable signal has a logic 'low' level and the inverted scan enable signal has a logic 'high' level;
 - a first scan tri-state inverter coupled to a first scan input terminal through which the first scan test signal is input and configured to invert the first scan test signal to output a first inverted scan test signal when the scan enable signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted scan enable signal has the logic 'low' level;
 - a first multiplexing transmission gate coupled to an output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter and an output terminal of the first scan tri-state inverter and configured to transmit the first inverted input signal or the first inverted scan test signal as a first multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level;
 - a first master inverter coupled to an output terminal of the first multiplexing transmission gate and configured to invert the first multiplexing signal received from the first multiplexing transmission gate to output a first inverted multiplexing signal;
 - a first master latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the first master inverter and the output terminal of the first multiplexing transmission gate and configured to invert the first inverted multiplexing signal received from the first master inverter to output the first multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level;
 - a first transmission gate coupled to the output terminal of the first master inverter and configured to transmit the first inverted multiplexing signal received from the first master inverter when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level;
 - a first slave inverter coupled to an output terminal of the first transmission gate and configured to invert the first inverted multiplexing signal received from the first transmission gate to output the first multiplexing signal;
 - a first slave latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the first slave inverter and the output terminal of the first transmission gate and configured to invert the first multiplexing signal received from the first slave inverter to output the first inverted multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level; and
 - a first output inverter coupled to the output terminal of the first slave inverter and configured to invert the first multiplexing signal received from the first slave inverter to output the first inverted multiplexing signal through a first signal output terminal as the first output signal.
- 14. The circuit of claim 13, wherein the second flip-flop includes:**
- a second input tri-state inverter coupled to a second signal input terminal through which the second input signal is input and configured to invert the second input signal to output a second inverted input signal when the scan

57

- enable signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted scan enable signal has the logic 'high' level;
- a second scan tri-state inverter coupled to a second scan input terminal through which the second scan test signal is input and configured to invert the second scan test signal to output a second inverted scan test signal when the scan enable signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted scan enable signal has the logic 'low' level;
 - a second multiplexing transmission gate coupled to an output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter and an output terminal of the second scan tri-state inverter and configured to transmit the second inverted input signal or the second inverted scan test signal as a second multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level;
 - a second master inverter coupled to an output terminal of the second multiplexing transmission gate and configured to invert the second multiplexing signal received from the second multiplexing transmission gate to output a second inverted multiplexing signal;
 - a second master latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second master inverter and the output terminal of the second multiplexing transmission gate and configured to invert the second inverted multiplexing signal received from the second master inverter to output the second multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level;
 - a second transmission gate coupled to the output terminal of the second master inverter and configured to transmit the second inverted multiplexing signal received from the second master inverter when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level;
 - a second slave inverter coupled to an output terminal of the second transmission gate and configured to invert the second inverted multiplexing signal received from the second transmission gate to output the second multiplexing signal;
 - a second slave latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second slave inverter and the output terminal of the second transmission gate and configured to invert the second multiplexing signal received from the second slave inverter to output the second inverted multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level; and
 - a second output inverter coupled to the output terminal of the second slave inverter and configured to invert the second multiplexing signal received from the second slave inverter to output the second inverted multiplexing signal through a second signal output terminal as the second output signal.
- 15.** The circuit of claim **13**, wherein the second flip-flop includes:
- a second input tri-state inverter coupled to a second signal input terminal through which the second input signal is input and configured to invert the second input signal to output a second inverted input signal when the scan enable signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted scan enable signal has the logic 'high' level;
 - a second scan transmission gate configured to output a connection signal corresponding to the first output signal or a first inverted output signal generated by inverting the first output signal when the scan enable

58

- signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted scan enable signal has the logic 'low' level;
- a second multiplexing transmission gate coupled to an output terminal of the second input tri-state inverter and an output terminal of the second scan transmission gate and configured to transmit the second inverted input signal or the connection signal as a second multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level;
 - a second master inverter coupled to an output terminal of the second multiplexing transmission gate and configured to invert the second multiplexing signal received from the second multiplexing transmission gate to output a second inverted multiplexing signal;
 - a second master latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second master inverter and the output terminal of the second multiplexing transmission gate and configured to invert the second inverted multiplexing signal received from the second master inverter to output the second multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level;
 - a second transmission gate coupled to the output terminal of the second master inverter and configured to transmit the second inverted multiplexing signal received from the second master inverter when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level;
 - a second slave inverter coupled to an output terminal of the second transmission gate and configured to invert the second inverted multiplexing signal received from the second transmission gate to output the second multiplexing signal;
 - a second slave latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second slave inverter and the output terminal of the second transmission gate and configured to invert the second multiplexing signal received from the second slave inverter to output the second inverted multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level; and
 - a second output inverter coupled to the output terminal of the second slave inverter and configured to invert the second multiplexing signal received from the second slave inverter to output the second inverted multiplexing signal through a second signal output terminal as the second output signal.
- 16.** A scan chain circuit comprising:
- a plurality of multi-bit flip-flop blocks configured to share a clock signal,
- wherein each of the multi-bit flip-flop blocks includes:
- a single inverter configured to generate an inverted clock signal by inverting the clock signal;
 - a first flip-flop including a first multiplexer part, a first master latch part, and a first slave latch part and configured to operate the first master latch part and the first slave latch part based on the clock signal and the inverted clock signal, the first flip-flop being triggered at rising edges of the clock signal; and
 - a second flip-flop including a second master latch part and a second slave latch part and configured to operate the second master latch part and the second slave latch part based on the clock signal and the inverted clock signal, the second flip-flop being triggered at the rising edges of the clock signal.
- 17.** The circuit of claim **16**, wherein the first flip-flop outputs a first input signal or a first scan test signal latched

59

at the rising edges of the clock signal as a first output signal, and the second flip-flop outputs the first output signal or a first inverted output signal latched at the rising edges of the clock signal as a second output signal, the first inverted output signal being generated by inverting the first output signal.

18. The circuit of claim 17, wherein the first flip-flop is directly coupled to the second flip-flop or is coupled to the second flip-flop via at least one buffer or at least one inverter located between the first flip-flop and the second flip-flop.

19. The circuit of claim 17, wherein the first flip-flop includes;

a selection inverter coupled to a scan enable signal input terminal through which a scan enable signal is input and configured to invert the scan enable signal to output an inverted scan enable signal;

a first input tri-state inverter coupled to a first signal input terminal through which the first input signal is input and configured to invert the first input signal to output a first inverted input signal when the scan enable signal has a logic 'low' level and the inverted scan enable signal has a logic 'high' level;

a first scan tri-state inverter coupled to a first scan input terminal through which the first scan test signal is input and configured to invert the first scan test signal to output a first inverted scan test signal when the scan enable signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted scan enable signal has the logic 'low' level;

a first multiplexing transmission gate coupled to an output terminal of the first input tri-state inverter and an output terminal of the first scan tri-state inverter and configured to transmit the first inverted input signal or the first inverted scan test signal as a first multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level;

a first master inverter coupled to an output terminal of the first multiplexing transmission gate and configured to invert the first multiplexing signal received from the first multiplexing transmission gate to output a first inverted multiplexing signal;

a first master latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the first master inverter and the output terminal of the first multiplexing transmission gate and configured to invert the first inverted multiplexing signal received from the first master inverter to output the first multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level;

a first transmission gate coupled to the output terminal of the first master inverter and configured to transmit the first inverted multiplexing signal received from the first master inverter when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level;

a first slave inverter coupled to an output terminal of the first transmission gate and configured to invert the first inverted multiplexing signal received from the first transmission gate to output the first multiplexing signal;

60

a first slave latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the first slave inverter and the output terminal of the first transmission gate and configured to invert the first multiplexing signal received from the first slave inverter to output the first inverted multiplexing signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level; and

a first output inverter coupled to the output terminal of the first slave inverter and configured to invert the first multiplexing signal received from the first slave inverter to output the first inverted multiplexing signal through a first signal output terminal as the first output signal.

20. The circuit of claim 19, wherein the second flip-flop includes:

a second connection tri-state inverter configured to invert a connection signal corresponding to the first output signal or the first inverted output signal to output an inverted connection signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level;

a second master inverter coupled to an output terminal of the second connection tri-state inverter and configured to invert the inverted connection signal received from the second connection tri-state inverter to output the connection signal;

a second master latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second master inverter and the output terminal of the second connection tri-state inverter and configured to invert the connection signal received from the second master inverter to output the inverted connection signal when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level;

a second transmission gate coupled to the output terminal of the second master inverter and configured to transmit the connection signal received from the second master inverter when the clock signal has the logic 'high' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'low' level;

a second slave inverter coupled to an output terminal of the second transmission gate and configured to invert the connection signal received from the second transmission gate to output the inverted connection signal;

a second slave latch tri-state inverter coupled between an output terminal of the second slave inverter and the output terminal of the second transmission gate and configured to invert the inverted connection signal received from the second slave inverter to output the connection signal when the clock signal has the logic 'low' level and the inverted clock signal has the logic 'high' level; and

a second output inverter coupled to the output terminal of the second slave inverter and configured to invert the inverted connection signal received from the second slave inverter to output the connection signal through a second signal output terminal as the second output signal.

* * * * *